

Britain guarantees Libya a fair trial

LONDON (AFP) — The British government guaranteed Libya Sunday that two of its nationals suspected of carrying out the 1988 Lockerbie bombing would receive a fair trial if extradited to Britain, a spokesman said. In a statement the Foreign Office spokesman said: "We have given the Libyans a series of detailed assurances about a fair trial in Scotland, and (about) the treatment of the two men after they have been surrendered." The statement on the explosion on board a United States Boeing 747 above the Scottish village of Lockerbie which left 270 dead was released through the British Press Association news agency. But the Foreign Office denied a report published in Scotland's Sunday Post newspaper which claimed Britain and Libya had reached a "secret agreement" over the trial of the two men (see page 10). "There is no secret agreement," the spokesman said.

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Jordan to finalise its agenda after Israel-PLO agreement is formalised

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein said Sunday that Jordan was likely to ratify a draft agenda for its talks with Israel after the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel sign the self-rule agreement they have reached.

The King stressed, however, that the agenda is not a peace agreement with Israel but an "outline" of the topics that need to be discussed.

"The agenda has been mis-represented as an accord. In fact it is an agenda of all topics that have to be discussed in great depth and hopefully the problems that have to be solved," King Hussein told reporters during a joint press conference with Austrian President Thomas Klestil.

King Hussein said Jordan held back the ratification of the agenda until progress was achieved on the Palestinian track of the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations.

"Once we see the Israeli-Palestinian moves materialise in terms of the expected agreement; then we will bear our responsibility towards ourselves, towards the future of our people," the King said.

Baghdad cabinet reshuffled

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein Sunday replaced his prime minister and appointed new oil and industry ministers, the Iraqi News Agency reported. The move appeared designed to push the country's economic reconstruction.

Ahmad Hussein Al Khudayr, the current finance minister, was appointed prime minister to replace Mohammad Hanza Al Zubaidi who had held the job for two years.

The cabinet reshuffle was intended to "give a new momentum to Iraq's construction quest following the Gulf crisis," said Adel Ibrahim, the spokesman for the Iraqi embassy in Amman.

Tareq Aziz stayed on as deputy premier, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said.

Mr. Aziz usually handles Baghdad's efforts to obtain the lifting of economic sanctions which the United Nations has imposed since Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

INA, which did not give a complete list of the cabinet reshuffle, said Safa Hadi Jawad replaced Osama Abdul Razak Al Hitia as oil minister, while General Hussein Kamel Hassan, advisor to the president, was named minister of industry and minerals.

Latif Nassif Jasseem, a former information minister, was designated minister of labour and social affairs, Beshir Alwan Hamidi minister of agriculture, Nizar Jumaa Ali Al Kassim minister of irrigation, Ahmad Mortada Ahmad Khalil minister of transport and communications, Abdul Monem Ahmad minister of religious affairs, and Abdul Wahab Omar Mirza Al Atrushi minister of state.

The new foreign minister was not identified on the list. It had been held by Mohammad Said Al Sahaf. Mr. Khudayr once served as foreign minister in 1991 and 1992.

A second decree appointed Abdul Sattar Ahmad Al Mami as adviser to President Saddam, and ex-oil minister Hiti, Abdul Wahab Mahmood Abdulla Al Sabagh, Abdulla Fadel Abbas and Amir Hammond Al Sadi as advisers at the presidential office.

A third decree appointed Tahir Mohammad Hassan, an adviser at the presidential office, as mayor of Baghdad.

A senior Jordan-based Western diplomat said the reshuffle underlined "the economic crunch resulting from international sanctions."

The PLO Executive Committee

King Hussein stressed that Jordan was seeking comprehensive peace in the Middle East, which will take time to achieve. "There is much that is important for us to address and attempt to resolve, but in the final analysis, it will take time to work out these problems and we hope this will be done simultaneously with the other Arab parties (involved) and Israel so that we can have comprehensive peace," the King said.

"We have many problems dictated by geography, proximity, occupied territories and other problems that are a challenge to both sides in terms of bringing about peace in the region between us as well as helping in the Palestinian dimension," the King said, in response to a question on whether Jordan has any problems with Israel other than the Palestinian issue.

King Hussein told reporters during a joint press conference with Austrian President Thomas Klestil that a

conference.

King Hussein said that it was clear yet how Jordan can help in building the infrastructure in Gaza and Jericho once the agreement is implemented, adding that Jordan was discussing the issue with the Palestinians to find out "exactly what they require of us and see what we can do to help in any way we can."



His Majesty King Hussein and Austrian President Thomas Klestil at a joint press conference Sunday (photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

Klestil ends visit praising Jordan

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Austrian President Thomas Klestil left Amman Sunday after a two-day visit during which he held talks with His Majesty King Hussein on bilateral relations and the Middle East peace process. Dr. Klestil said his visit to the Kingdom provided the opportunity to discuss bilateral relations and regional developments at a "very important" phase in the peace process.

During a joint press conference before Dr. Klestil's departure, King Hussein described the Austrian president as a "dear friend (with whom) we share the same views, same ideals and seek to contribute to a better future in our respective regions and in the world."

The King said he was pleased with the results of his meetings with Dr. Klestil. He said the visit was "a milestone in a friendly relationship that grew on mutual trust and respect."

Dr. Klestil, whose country recently hosted an international conference on human rights, said Jordan's human rights record "is a good example of giving democratic rights to people."

He cited Jordan's record of sheltering refugees and displaced persons and the multi-party parliamentary elections that it will hold in November as "a very, very (good) example of human rights."

Commenting on the self-rule accord reached between the Palestinians and Israel, Dr. Klestil said the agreement was "a very important first step" in the peace process.

He said his country was not involved in the secret Palestinian-Israeli talks that resulted in the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

The timing of his visit "is no indication that we were involved in the secret talks," he told the press

conference.

He said Austria was not asked to play any role in the secret talks but would do so in the future if invited by all the concerned parties.

Dr. Klestil said Austria would continue to support the peace process and "was happy to see that developments confirm the right track of Austria's foreign policy."

Austria chairs the water committee in the multilateral phase of the Arab-Israeli talks and is also involved in energy-related development in the Middle East.

Dr. Klestil said a Middle East peace agreement should be supported by Europe, which should look at the PLO-Israeli agreement from economic and financial as well as political perspectives.

"I think a peace agreement will deserve all the support, economic and financial, that can be given by Europe," he said.

Asked about Jordanian-Austrian relations after peace is achieved in the Middle East, Dr. Klestil said: "Nothing will change other than Jordan will play an even more important role in the region and we have more reasons to look into strengthening our bilateral relations."

Earlier in the day, King Hussein and President Klestil held a round of official talks which was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali, Royal Court Chief Khaled Karaki and other officials.

President Klestil laid a wreath at the tomb of King Abdullah.

President Klestil, who accepted an invitation extended by King Hussein to pay a state visit to Jordan, was given an official farewell ceremony and was seen off at the airport by King Hussein, Prince Hassan, Dr. Majali, Dr. Karaki and other officials.

President Klestil stayed away from the current round of peace talks underway since last week, to build support in the occupied territories for a plan approved by Israel to start Palestinian autonomy in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank city of Jericho.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), which made the autonomy agreement with Israel, faces its most difficult battle in the impoverished Gaza Strip because of the strength of Islamic political groups here.

The Strip is home to some 800,000 Palestinians. Many are refugees of the 1948 war and live

King and Queen leave for London

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein, accompanied by Her Majesty Queen Noor, left for London Sunday afternoon on a private visit. Officials said the visit would last for a "few days."

A Royal Palace spokesman said Saturday the King had called off a visit to the Far East later this month because of the latest developments in the

Middle East peace process, notably the Israeli-Palestinian agreement on autonomy.

The King and Queen were seen off from Amman airport by Royal family members and senior officials.

Before the King's departure, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan was sworn in to serve as Regent during the King's stay abroad.

Arafat seeks Syrian and Arab endorsement of self-rule deal

Combined agency dispatches

DAMASCUS — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat began talks on Sunday expected to centre on a proposed Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement.

Mr. Arafat is on a mission to persuade Mr. Assad to support the accord but Palestinian opposition sources said his task would not be easy and the Syrians would probably use "harsh words."

Syria has shown signs it does not like the agreement.

The official news agency SANA said the talks were attended by Syrian Vice-President Abdul Hafiz Khaddam and Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharara.

Among those attending from the Palestinian side were head of the PLO's Political Department Farouk Kaddoumi and head of the Information Department Yasser Abed Rabbo, SANA added.

Before beginning talks with Mr. Assad, Mr. Arafat told reporters in Damascus: "I'm happy with the Arab position to coordinate beforehand with all Arab partners in the peace process — Syria, Jordan and Lebanon."

Caesar reportedly has been trying to mediate between Mr. Arafat and Mr. Assad long-time adversaries in the Middle East's Byzantine politics.

Mr. Arafat said he plans to visit other Arab capitals. He did not name them, but Palestinian sources said he will fly to the Gulf from Damascus. In recent days he has visited Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Mauritania, Yemen, Sudan, Egypt and Jordan.

Syrian backing is crucial to get the PLO's ruling body to give Mr. Arafat the green light to sign the accord with Israel.

The most vehement opposition to the self-rule accord has come from Damascus-based Palestinian factions.

Mr. Arafat, speaking at Cairo airport on the way to Damascus, described Arab reaction to the agreement as positive but he declined to be drawn on Syria's

(Continued on page 3)

Husseini lobbies Gaza Strip

OCCUPIED GAZA STRIP (AP) — The top Palestinian negotiator started the tough sell of a peace plan to this Muslim fundamentalist stronghold Sunday by promising that Palestinian statehood was on the way.

Faisal Husseini, head of the peace delegation at the MidEast talks in Washington, addressed a partisan crowd of about 1,000 supporters of the mainstream Fatah movement at Al Azher University in Gaza City.

"We have to build our state," Mr. Husseini told a cheering capacity audience that spilled out the hall's doorways. "It is not going to be an easy path covered with flowers and a red carpet, but we will reach a Palestinian state."

Earlier in the day, King Hussein stayed away from the current round of peace talks underway since last week, to build support in the occupied territories for a plan approved by Israel to start Palestinian autonomy in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank city of Jericho.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), which made the autonomy agreement with Israel, faces its most difficult battle in the impoverished Gaza Strip because of the strength of Islamic political groups here.

The Strip is home to some 800,000 Palestinians. Many are refugees of the 1948 war and live

in ramshackle refugee camps.

The place where Mr. Husseini spoke is an extension of the famous Islamic institute of learning by the same name in Cairo. Unlike other Muslim centres in Gaza, it is pro-PLO.

Mr. Husseini said Palestinians bad to unite behind the peace plan for it to succeed.

"The minority must respect the opinion of the majority," he said. "If we do this correctly, we will reach our Palestinian state with the support of the U.S. and Russia."

The dais where Mr. Husseini spoke was decorated with a picture of PLO leader Yasser Arafat and a huge verse from the Koran, saying "all of you are united, do not be divided."

Reaction to the autonomy plan has been muted in Gaza, where the uprising against Israeli occupation started in December 1987.

Opposition groups, Islamic parties and those within the PLO, have threatened to assassinate those responsible for the plan.

They argue that the plan is vague about achieving statehood or in gaining control of the Arab areas of Jerusalem that Israel seized in the 1967 war.

Security around Mr. Husseini was tight, with at least five bodyguards, forming a phalanx around

him to take him to his car.

After the speech there was a brief question-and-answer period but the questions were prepared for him on paper and not taken from the audience.

Asked about negotiations for mutual recognition between the PLO and Israel, Mr. Husseini hinted that the recognition might not be in public but through an exchange of letters to the co-sponsors of the peace talks, the U.S. and Russia.

He also said that the Israeli settlers would remain in Gaza for some time after an Israeli military withdrawal.

Mr. Husseini's comments hit one of the main visible problems with the agreement — the different interpretations of each side.

The Israelis insist that it is not the first step towards a Palestinian state and Palestinians say that it is.

Gazans interviewed at random seemed confused about the plan but generally supporting as along as it brings an Israeli troop withdrawal and eventually a state.

"If Gaza-Jericho brings all the land of Palestine, I support it. But if it brings just Gaza-Jericho we are against it. It is not enough," said Mohammad Ahmad Tawil, a 32-year-old moneychanger.

Arab Gulf states back Palestinian autonomy accord

RIYADH (Agencies) — Six Arab Gulf states announced Sunday that they supported the Israeli-Palestinian accord by providing the Israeli-occupied territories with \$590 million in international economic aid.

The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) said in a statement it welcomed the draft accord as a first step on the path to a just, durable and comprehensive settlement of the Palestinian cause and Arab-Israeli conflict."

Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Qatar, Bahrain and Oman overcame earlier doubts about the accord after prodding by Washington, the key sponsor of the Middle East peace talks, a GCC source said.

Diplomats said the pledge of support could lead to crucial financial backing for Palestinian autonomy.

In the semi-official UAE news-

office in Abu Dhabi, said Sunday that the accord must be approved by all Arab states before it is signed.

"All Arabs have suffered and sacrificed their blood, money and stability of their people to pay the bill of the Palestinian cause," he said.

"They have all fought the battle for Palestine since early this century ... no one can deprive them of the right to have a say in all that concerns the Palestinian cause."

State-supported media in the Gulf states have given a guarded welcome to the autonomy deal.

Some newspapers known for their Arab nationalism have questioned it and Islamic fundamentalists in the region, who have few public platforms despite their relative influence, were

widely believed to oppose the accord, diplomats said.

One nationalist paper, Al Khaleej of Sharjah, described the proposed agreement on Sunday as a dangerous adventure that caused "regret, sorrow and disgust" and said it raised the spectre of an inter-Arab civil war.

"Like their Palestinian equivalents who strongly oppose the deal, radical fundamentalists here (in the Gulf) see any deal with Israel as verging on apostasy," one diplomat said.

He noted that fundamentalist opposition focused mainly on the status of Jerusalem.

Diplomats said although the GCC ministers may offer political support for the peace moves, their willingness or ability to offer economic support appeared limited.

(Continued on page 3)

Middle East News

U.S. moves towards recognising PLO

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bill Clinton's administration will approach Congress soon on reopening talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and a chief aide to Chairman Yasser Arafat said Friday there already are assurances of U.S. recognition.

Administration officials told the Associated Press the point of consulting Congress is to make certain re-opening of talks with the PLO after more than three years would not conflict with any standing legal restrictions.

For instance, a congressional amendment prohibits the executive branch from using government funds to hold talks with the PLO. The restrictions were based on a determination the PLO sponsored "terrorism" and targeted Israelis and Americans.

That view is fast-changing now that Israel has concluded lengthy secret negotiations with the PLO and is on the verge of turning over Gaza and the West Bank to Palestinian administration and recognising the PLO as a legitimate organisation.

Nahil Shaath, chief political strategist for Mr. Arafat, said in an interview "there are assurances" from the Clinton administration of U.S. recognition.

It already had the support of at least 75 per cent of the Palesti-

nians who live on the West Bank in Gaza, he said.

Israel and the PLO, after nearly 30 years of bitter enmity, now are working together to sell their deal to the Israeli and Palestinian public.

Critics in Israel see Mr. Arafat's pending toehold on the West Bank as the first phase in a long-delayed PLO policy of taking over Israel in phases. Mr. Arafat's critics, meanwhile, contend it has settled for too little from

anonymity.

He stressed it was important to consult Congress, where pro-Israel support has always been strong on "how you change our current policy."

Mr. Shaath, meanwhile, said it was a simple matter, requiring only an executive order, not an act of congress.

Mr. Christopher hinted last Tuesday at a policy shift. "Obviously, there are developments taking place that we are going to follow very carefully," he said.

Officially, the State Department still considers the PLO an umbrella organisation with elements that promote "terrorism" and others that do not.

Dr. Shaath said Mr. Arafat's job now was to convince the PLO's executive and central committee to "make a good deal" with Israel.

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anonymity.

He stressed it was important to consult Congress, where pro-Israel support has always been strong on "how you change our current policy."

Mr. Christopher is planning calls and letters this weekend to urge Arab and European officials to support the agreement, said a State Department official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

In addition, Mr. Christopher's team of Mideast experts planned this weekend to urge Arab and Israeli Mideast negotiators in Washington to keep up the momentum in the other three tracks of peace talks — between Israel and three Arab countries, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan.

Mr. Rabinovich, at a news conference, said negotiations this week with Syria had made some headway on security concerns but had not "overcome the basic problem."

That is Syria's demand for recovery of the Golan Heights and Israel's demand for a peace treaty.

Israel and the PLO are still in

negotiations "hour-by-hour" on the telephone, Dr. Shaath said, now that the talks in Oslo, Norway, have been concluded.

Since the PLO is not a state, U.S. recognition would not involve an exchange of ambassadors. The U.S. consulate in Jerusalem already is the American contact to Palestinians on the West Bank.

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Egyptian group urges Jerusalem liberation

CAIRO (R) — A statement purporting to come from Egypt's shadowy fundamentalist group Jihad urged Muslims to target Jerusalem and liberate the city from Israeli rule.

The faxed statement, signed by the information office of Jihad (holy struggle) and sent to an international news organisation on Saturday night, said the Muslim holy sites in Saudi Arabia, the cities of Mecca and Medina, were also under foreign occupation.

It was not possible to obtain independent confirmation that the statement came from Jihad. The group assassinated President Anwar Sadat in 1981 and now says it is bent on toppling his successor, Hosni Mubarak, to turn Egypt into an Islamic state.

The statement said it was the duty of all Muslims to struggle to liberate Jerusalem, Islam's third holiest site, from the enemies of Islam.

Jihad's chief weapon was the armed struggle, the statement said.

"The most important of our methods is fighting against governments that are apostates from Islam, a method which we consider an obligation on Muslims at this time."

"Our first goal is to set up an Islamic state. A state of the caliphate which will work to... rule by Sharia and liberate the occupied lands of the Muslims and the first of them is Jerusalem," the statement said.

"No. It's not their role. They (Jews) have to care for welfare and security in Israel."

According to Palestinian sources, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat recently transferred \$800 million to cover the expenses of setting up Palestinian autonomy in the Gaza Strip and Jericho in the West Bank.

The World Bank has finished a study for a \$2.95 billion project to finance government projects and another \$3 billion for private projects in Gaza and the West Bank.

The Palestinian ambassador to the United States, Itamar Rabinovich, said the money could come from several European countries, Japan and Arab countries.

land of Islam so that they defile the Arabian Peninsula which the Prophet of God purified."

Egypt has charged 248 militants with trying to reactivate the group, crushed after the Sadat assassination.

A statement which said it was from the group claimed responsibility for the attempted assassination of Interior Minister Hassan Al Alfie last month — the bomb attack in central Cairo killed five people.

Saturday's statement said its author was Ayman Al Zahrahi, Jihad's "emir" or leader.

Mr. Zahrahi, wanted by Egyptian police, is a doctor who went to Afghanistan to help the Mujahedin fight the Soviet army. Egyptian security forces think he moves between Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan, directing militant operations in Egypt.

Jihad is believed to focus on infiltrating the military as the only force capable of overthrowing Mr. Mubarak. Four of the 248 charged with trying to revive the group have been identified as military personnel and fundamentalist sources say there may be others.

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JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1993

NEWS IN BRIEF

Pakistan rules out recognition of Israel

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Pakistan's interim government on Sunday ruled out recognition of Israel in the wake of the possible establishment of official ties between the Palestinian Liberation Organisation and the Jewish state. "We have no plans to recognise Israel," Interior Prime Minister Moen Qureshi told reporters here. However, he said Islamabad would support any step that would lead to the recognition of the Palestinians' rights and would extend support to any arrangement that reduces the suffering of the Palestinian people. The Palestinian people have "suffered enormously" due to denial of their "just rights" at the hands of Israel, he said. Commenting on the efforts for rapprochement, he said Pakistan was "watching with interest and sympathy" the ongoing developments in the Middle East. Israel has recently established relations with several formerly hostile Asian countries including India, China and Vietnam.

Alfi steps up battle against extremists

CAIRO (AFP) — The Egyptian government plans to intensify its struggle against Islamic fundamentalists who have been waging a terror campaign against the secular authorities. Interior Minister Hassan Al Alfie said. General Alfi, who was wounded in an Aug. 18 assassination attempt by extremists, was quoted by the local press Sunday as saying security forces would soon launch a "decisive and dissuasive" series of operations "to counter terrorism." He did not provide any details. The suicide bomb attack against Gen. Alfi left five people dead and 17 wounded. He was wounded in the arm and underwent surgery in a Swiss hospital. His statements to the press Sunday marked his return to duty. The attack, one of the deadliest in a months-long campaign of political violence by Islamic fundamentalists, was claimed by a group calling itself Talaq Al Fatah, Vanguard of Conquest.

Bomb explodes near Yemen premier's home

SANAA (AP) — A bomb exploded overnight near the home of Prime Minister Haidar Al Attas, but caused no casualties, police said Sunday. Police officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, made no mention of any damage. The identity of the bombers was not known and there was no claim of responsibility. The bombing marked the first outbreak of political violence since parliamentary elections in April, the first multi-party poll on the Arabian Peninsula. The run-up to the election was marred by widespread violence, including attacks on leading politicians. Mr. Attas is a former leader of South Yemen, and was a target in the pre-election violence in which his brother was assassinated. A bomb exploded near Mr. Attas' home shortly before the elections.

Israel moves to winter time for morning prayer

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel moved to winter time overnight Saturday-Sunday and put the clocks back to make local time GMT plus two hours, the energy ministry announced. Israel calls an early end to summer time (GMT plus three hours), which began on April 2, so that Orthodox Jews have daylight to pray in the morning in preparation for the Jewish new year on Sept. 15. The energy ministry, noting that more than \$12 million were saved in energy costs this summer, wanted Israel to put the clocks back on Oct. 23, more in line with Europe.

Saudis publish phone numbers of religious leaders

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabian citizens with urgent religious questions can now seek advice of the country's top Islamic leaders by phoning them at home outside office hours. An announcement carried by the official Saudi Press Agency on Saturday night and repeatedly broadcast in full on Saudi Radio on Sunday gave the telephone numbers of five top men. They included Sheikh Abdul Aziz Ben Abdullah Ben Baz, the recently appointed mufti of Saudi Arabia and president of the Higher Council of Ulema. It said the numbers were being published "in view of the people's great need for answers to their questions." The announcement listed the telephone numbers, with appropriate times when calls could be received. No calls should be made after 10 p.m. it said.

Italy said set to free Kurdish spokesman

ROME (R) — Italy's justice minister has requested the release of a Kurdish guerrilla representative held in a Rome prison since Thursday, state radio reported Sunday. Justice Minister Giovanni Conso has asked Rome's appeal court to revoke the detention of Ali Sapan, a spokesman in Europe for the separatist Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), it said. Mr. Conso made the request after receiving fresh documentation from the Turkish authorities showing the alleged offences for which Mr. Sapan were being held were regarded as having lapsed under Italian law, the radio added. The Turkish authorities have said they wanted Mr. Sapan extradited on charges of subversion. Mr. Sapan was detained in central Rome Thursday after leaving the city's foreign press club where he had given a news conference on his efforts to negotiate the release of two Italian tourists currently in the hands of Kurdish separatists.

Submarine found in Turkish coal mine

ANKARA (AP) — A vintage submarine, believed to be German, was discovered in a Turkish coal mine on the Black Sea coast, press reports said Sunday. The submarine had been discovered by miners digging for coal on a strip of land reclaimed from the sea about 50 kilometres northwest of Istanbul, reported Hurriyet, a major national daily. Only the bows of the vessel had been dug up and workers were trying to clear tonnes of sand from the rest of the hull, the paper said. Two torpedoes, found live in forward tubes, had been defused by Turkish navy experts, the newspaper said, speculating that full tubes indicated the sub was sunk while preparing for combat.

Egypt prisoners injure 48 guards

CAIRO (R) — Muslim militants rioted in an Egyptian prison during a police search Sunday, injuring 48 policemen and guards, security sources said. The inmates threw stones and other objects at police who came to search for weapons at Abu Za'bal prison north of Cairo and to move about 200 prisoners to Tora prison south of the capital. Police released teargas grenades and arrested five militant ringleaders, the sources said.

Turks enforce curfew after ambush kills Kurdish legislator

ANKARA (R) — Turkish authorities enforced a curfew on the southeastern town of Batman on Sunday after gunmen shot dead a Kurdish member of parliament and wounded another.

The attack is certain to heighten tension in the southeast, scene of a separatist struggle by Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) rebels last week.

Security forces kept reporters out of the city where Mardio Deputy Mehmet Sincar of the Kurdish-based Democracy Party (DEP) was killed and Batman DEP Deputy Nizamettin Togue wounded when they came under fire in a shopping street on Saturday.

A local DEP member, Metin Ozdemir, was also killed. Three other people were wounded.

DEP Chairman Yasar Kaya said the curfew was imposed on Batman within 10 minutes of the shooting.

"It's obvious that this incident has been planned in advance," he told the pre-Kurdish Istanbul daily Ozgur Gundem, which said Mr. Sincar was the 54th member of DEP or its forerunner, the People's Labour Party, to be murdered since July 1991.

Prime Minister Tansu Ciller said after an emergency cabinet meeting ended early on Sunday: "The attackers will surely be found and the government will pursue the case until they are."

She denied accusations by DEP deputy Hatip Dicle, who was also in Batman at the time of the attack, that police protection had been withdrawn from the DEP delegation on Saturday.

State Minister Mehmet Golhan, in charge of a crisis coordination committee, said

the gunmen — conflicting accounts put their number at between one and four — escaped.

Police chief Mehmet Agar said 12 cartridges from a nine-millimetre gun had been recovered.

More than 1,300 people have been killed in the southeast since the collapse on May 24 of a unilateral PKK ceasefire.

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Police chief Mehmet Agar said 12 cartridges from a nine-millimetre gun had been recovered.

More than 1,300 people have been killed in the southeast since the collapse on May 24 of a unilateral PKK ceasefire.



Prime Minister Abdal Salam Al Majali Sunday visits the Ministry of Communications and Postal Affairs and is briefed on its activities by Minister Tareq Suheimat (left) and Secretary General Abdullah Al Jazi (Petra photo)

Majali and ministers review transport, communication projects

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdal Salam Al Majali Sunday made an unscheduled visit to the Transport Ministry and attended part of a regular weekly meeting of its planning committee chaired by Minister of Transport Salman Al Tarawneh and attended by senior ministry officials.

Later, Dr. Majali called at the

Ministry of Communication and Postal Affairs where he met with Minister Tareq Suheimat, the ministry's secretary general. The prime minister reaffirmed the government's interest in applying a decentralised system to facilitate matters for public and save people time and expenses.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Minister, Pakistani officials discuss health cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Health Minister Abdol Rahim Malhas Sunday discussed with two visiting secretaries of health in the Pakistani Federal and Punjab states, Ahmad Rashid Sedeiki and Tareq Haroun, health issues and means of developing health cooperation. The two Pakistani officials will acquire first-hand information about the Quality of Life Project in Jordan, in an attempt to utilise it in their country. The project is being carried out by the Ministry of Health and Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF), in cooperation with the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Youth minister returns from Lebanon

AMMAN (Petra) — Youth Minister Abdallah Oweidat Sunday returned home after a five-day visit to Lebanon during which he attended the inauguration of the Arab Youth Festival, in which Jordan, along with other Arab countries, participated. Dr. Oweidat also attended the meetings of the Executive Bureau of the Council of Arab Ministers of Youth and Sports. The three-day meetings focused on means of financing the council's fund and reconstructing sports installations and facilities in Lebanon.

Industry raw materials meeting to begin

AMMAN (Petra) — University of Jordan President Fawzi Gharibeh today (Monday) will open the first international conference on raw materials used in industry. The four-day conference, organised by the Jordan Engineers Association (JEA), in cooperation with the University of Jordan, seeks to shed light on the importance of using local raw materials in industrial industries and its socio-economic effects on Jordan. It will also discuss the possibility of using local raw materials instead of imported raw material in Jordanian industries. The conference will discuss 33 working papers presented by Jordanian and Arab researchers. The papers deal with a wide range of subjects including the availability and sites of raw materials in Jordan, transfer of technology, raw materials used in construction, case studies, strategies of scientific research and quality control. An exhibition of national industries will be held on the sideline of the conference.

HCST chief, Japanese officials review cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Secretary General of the Higher Council of Science and Technology Hani Al-Mulki, who is also President of the Royal Scientific Society (RSS), Sunday met with a delegation from the Japanese Agency for International Cooperation (JICA) and discussed with them scopes of cooperation between the agency and the Jordanian scientific and technical institutions. He thanked the Japanese government for its technical assistance to the RSS. Dr. Mulki noted in particular JICA's contribution to the establishment of the Electronic Services and Training Centre and the Computer Technology and Training Centre, which is designed to serve as a regional training centre. The two sides also discussed means of developing advanced computer training packages.

Trade unions official calls for statistics centre

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Secretary General of the General Federation of Jordanian Trade Unions (GFTU) Mazen Maatish Sunday called

Arafat seeks Arab endorsement of deal

(Continued from page 1)

Most Arab countries recognise Mr. Arafat as president of Palestine and treat him as a head of state.

Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Al-Hariri, who said Saturday the PLO had damaged the Palestinian cause by not briefing the other Arabs on the agreement, had talks with Mr. Khaddam in Damascus on Sunday. SANA said. It gave no details.

In a speech on Sept. 1, Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi said: "What is going on in Palestine now is not peace."

The Arab-Israeli confrontation is over Palestine and not the Gaza Strip or the West Bank. The PLO's programme includes Jaffa, Acre and Tel Aviv."

Libya and Iran denounced the PLO-Israeli agreement. Libya

said the only just solution was the old PLO ideal of a single state including both Jews and Arabs. "Such a deal does not achieve a just and permanent peace, which can only be based on the establishment of a democratic Palestinian state in which Palestinians and Jews live together ... without that there will not be peace," the official Libyan news agency JANA said.

In a speech on Sept. 1, Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi said: "What is going on in Palestine now is not peace."

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Aqaba Hotel to be replaced with new 4-star facility

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — In six to nine months, 32-year-old Aqaba Hotel, owned and operated by the Social Security Corporation (SSC), is to be torn down to make way for the construction of a four-star 350-room hotel, according to SSC Director General Mohammad Saleh Al Hourani.

"We are building a modern hotel with 270 double and 70 single rooms, as well as 10 business suites on the same spot as the beach front Aqaba Hotel at a cost of JD 12 million," said Mr. Hourani in a statement to the Jordan Times.

The SSC has already begun preparing designs and blueprints for the new hotel.

Remarkably the new hotel will take three years to complete. Mr. Hourani said the larger facility was needed to cope with the increasing demand for accommodations in the resort city, which, he said, is crowded with visitors during the height of the tourist season.

Lately, Aqaba has witnessed

growing tourism activity with visitors coming from Jordan and abroad, he added.

Mr. Hourani said the new hotel is to be set up on 34 dunums with 237 metres of beach front.

According to Nasser Kawar, owner of the Petra Travel and Tourism Company (Petra Tours), Aqaba is especially crowded with visitors during public holidays in Jordan and in the spring, winter and autumn.

He told the Jordan Times that there is no doubt that once a Middle East peace agreement is reached the port city and the whole of Jordan will witness greater numbers of tourists coming to the Kingdom.

The Ministry of Tourism expects that tourism in Jordan during 1993 will register a 15 per cent increase over 1992.

Tourism in general, particularly in Aqaba, suffered severely during the Gulf crisis when the industry came to a near standstill in the entire region.

According to ministry estimates, the Kingdom sustained \$230 million in lost tourism business during that crisis.



Aqaba's beaches attract vacationers almost all year round, with peak seasons in August, winter and spring (Staff photo by Aynsley Floyd)

NGOs team up to expand interest-free loan project

AMMAN (J.T.) — The General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) and the Amman-based office of the Near East Foundation (NEF) are expanding a project for needy families to receive interest-free loans to help them start income-generating projects.

Munawar Khris, director of the GUVS Studies Centre said the GUVS and the NEF have created credit funds to channel loans to the poor, thus contributing to the national effort to eradicate poverty and unemployment.

Needy families can receive up to JD 700 on the condition that they guarantee to pay back the loan in easy instalments, said Mrs. Khris.

"This is a way of encouraging needy families to depend on themselves and earn their own living and contribute to the development of their own community," said Mrs. Khris.

The creation of the funds in different governorates was approved following successful experiments in two rural communities: Bir Haddad in Maan governorate and Thuneibeh in the Irbid region, added Mrs. Khris.

Altogether JD 10,000 was granted to families in the two regions and 14 small-size projects

were initiated in Thuneibeh and 11 in Bir Haddad, she said.

The projects were conducted with the help of local charitable societies which executed schemes such as cattle and sheep breeding, dress-making, bee-keeping and others depending on the nature of the area and the skill of the project owner, she said.

Some of the newly created funds will be handed over to several charitable societies this month because they proved to be competent and capable of managing such schemes, Mrs. Khris added.

According to Mrs. Khris, eventually GUVS charitable societies will take over the programme, and all loans to the local communities will be channelled through these societies.

According to Majed Turmusai, coordinator of credit funds at the GUVS, the project is a long-term strategy to deal with poverty in rural communities where charitable societies can help the poor.

GUVS and the NEF have plans for the creation of credit funds in six rural settlements in southern Jordan in 1993 and 1994, said Mr. Turmusai.

Occupational therapy college to hold awareness workshop

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan College of Occupational Therapy (JCOT) will hold an awareness workshop on Wednesday and Thursday September 8 and 9 at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) in Amman beginning at 9:00 a.m.

A college official said that the workshop will review leaflets, posters, video tapes and illustrations depicting occupational therapy services in order to increase the public's awareness regarding this new rehabilitation profession in Jordan.

Established in 1989, the JCOT

is headed by Her Highness Princess Majda Ra'd and sponsored by the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) as well as the Jordanian Armed Forces. The college is currently situated at Farah Centre of the King Hussein Medical Centre.

The college offers a three-year diploma in occupational therapy and has already graduated two classes. Occupational therapists are employed in the field of rehabilitating handicapped persons by enabling them to become self-reliant.

Date for self-rule signing uncertain

(Continued from page 1)

our demands then we will recognise the PLO.

"There are still problems with the wording."

Israel has agreed to discuss the return of some 200,000 Palestinians displaced in the 1967 war, but the official said it refused PLO calls to include, in a recognition declaration; a right of return for hundreds of thousands more refugees from 1948.

Referral of all outstanding differences to an Israeli-Palestinian committee.

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Chilean foreign affairs official to arrive for 2 days of talks

AMMAN (J.T.) — The undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile, Rodrigo Diaz Alfonso will arrive in Amman Saturday (Sept. 11) on a two-day official visit to Jordan and will deliver a message to His Majesty King Hussein from the Chilean president.

Chilean Ambassador to Jordan Nelson Haddad Heres told the Jordan Times Sunday that the envoy will also meet with Prime Minister Abdal Salam Al Majali, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan and Minister of Industry and Trade Bassam Al Saket.

Discussions will cover political, cultural and economic matters with a special focus on the Middle East peace process and ways of bolstering Chileo-Jordanian ties, said the ambassador.

He said that Mr. Alfonso, who will be accompanied on the visit by an official delegation, will also familiarise himself with the political developments in the Middle East and the political pluralism and democratic process in the Kingdom.

Meanwhile the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported Sunday that a Chilean tourist delegation will arrive here on Oct. 6 at the

invitation of the Ministry of Tourism.

The delegation, which will be led by the director of the Chilean Tourist Department, will tour archaeological sites and other places of interest, according to a programme prepared by the ministry. The tour will take the group to the ancient Nabatean city of Petra, the Greco-Roman city of Jerash and the Dead Sea among other attractions.

Discussions during the visit, said the ministry, will focus on prospects of organising group visits and bilateral cooperation in tourism, said Petra.

Workshop reviews U.N.- sponsored complementary irrigation project

AMMAN (Petra) — The meagre and limited water resources of Jordan compel the government to seek the most efficient methods of using available resources, rationing water use and protecting water resources from pollution, said Agriculture Minister Marwan Kamal Sunday.

Addressing the opening of a two-day workshop to discuss progress in the implementation of a regional project on water management, Dr. Kamal said Jordan was adopting the "complementary irrigation method" in order to economise on water consumption in agriculture and obtain a good output of produce.

The workshop has been called to review the results of the first stage of a six-year United Nations-sponsored "regional complementary irrigation project"

in which Jordan and other countries in the Near East are involved.

Initiated in 1991, the project is scheduled to run until 1996 and is mainly financed by the United Nations Development Progress (UNDP).

The UNDP is providing \$3.75 million, and regional countries involved in the project are making other contributions, said Othman Hashem, U.N. resident representative in Jordan.

Dr. Hashem said the project has made great strides in the past three years during which the UNDP provided equipment for laboratory work involving tests on soil and water, training for personnel working on the project and U.N. specialists conducting supervisory visits during its implementation.

A total of 12 working papers to be reviewed by delegates from the countries involved in the project deal with problems and difficulties facing researchers in waste management.

WHAT'S GOING ON EXHIBITIONS

★ Art exhibition by Egyptian artist H. Bikar at the Balqa' Art Gallery in Fuheis.

★ Thirty paintings by Amour Onis and Salam Kannan at the Alia Art Gallery.

★ Plastic art exhibition by artists Mohammad Al-Ameri and Ghassan Abu Laban at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ New art gallery, "Darat Al Funun," of the Abd Al Hamid Shoman Foundation. Programme includes the permanent exhibition and the "Chair" exhibition in Jabal Luweibeh.

★ Exhibition by Syrian artist Nader Isma'il at Baladna Art Gallery.

FILM

★ Film entitled "King Kong" at the American Centre at 6:00 p.m.

SEMINARS & LECTURES

★ Lecture entitled: "Political Currents in the Arab World" by Dr. Husni Hanafi, head of the Philosophy Department at the University of Cairo at Abd Al Hamid Shoman Foundation.

★ Session entitled "Mining and Quarrying Activities Impact on Environment and Health" at the Kofer Almas' Municipal Council.

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Opinion & Analysis

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.

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Bridge of trust

AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT Thomas Klestil's visit to Jordan came at a crucial juncture in the history of this region and its relations with the rest of the world.

Vienna is no stranger to the Middle East conflict and has relentlessly contributed to regional and international efforts to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict. Former Austrian leaders Bruno Kreisky and Kurt Waldheim, spared no effort to broker peace between the warring states in the Middle East and offered their country as a venue for many past attempts to bring peace to the area.

In their endeavours for peace, Austria and its people enjoyed the full trust and confidence of peoples and governments, but above all in the Arab World itself.

Vienna's neutrality in the post World War II era, especially in the heydays of the cold war, had granted it a singular position in the undertaking of the cause of peace and progress worldwide. No one can forget the sincere Austrian contributions to adopting global disarmament policies, particularly in the field of nuclear and mass destruction weapons. Likewise, Austria's contributions to bridging the gap between the haves and have-nots in this world were so impressive that they got recognised and rewarded by all states as it was finally decided to have Vienna house the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO). Also in recognition of the growing international stature of Austria, its capital became the third major seat for the United Nations Organisation, after New York and Geneva. Currently Vienna hosts a variety of international organisations, including the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the International Drug Control Programme (IDCP). This is testimony to Austria's record as a catalyst for international cooperation and development.

On the bilateral level, Austria and Jordan have always enjoyed the best of relations that date back to the early 1950s. The Austrian government offered the Kingdom's aircraft sanctuary during the Gulf war and maintained friendly and solid relations with it at a time when we were misunderstood by many others over our position on the Gulf crisis and war.

The understanding and appreciation of that stance by the Austrian government and people will always be remembered by all Jordanians as a major proof of Austrian impartiality in handling international conflicts. The warmth with which President Klestil was received by the King is a token of Jordan's friendship and appreciation for Austria and for what it stands in the Middle East and elsewhere in the world.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily Sunday welcomed a visit to Jordan by Austrian President Thomas Klestil and said that Jordanians appreciate the Austrian people's friendship and take pride in their president's visit to Jordan. The fact that this is the first trip outside Europe for the president reflects the strength of relations between two countries which have their roots deeply embedded in cultural, political and economic cooperation, said the paper. Not only do the peoples of Austria and Jordan reciprocate each other's respect and affection, they also have common understanding of a host of world and regional issues, said the daily. Jordan appreciates Austria's support for Jordan and its continued assistance in times of need and the Jordanian people take pride in the friendship of the Austrian people who back the Kingdom's efforts to attain peace, security and stability, said the daily. In welcoming the Austrian president, Jordan hopes that the visit would give further momentum to the ongoing efforts to bolster bilateral ties and cooperation in all fields, said the paper.

A COLUMNIST in Sawt Al Shabab daily urged the government to take measures designed to end the existing coordination between the Jordanians and the Palestinians in the light of the Gaza-Jericho first agreement between the PLO and Israel. Salameh Elkar said that now that the agreement has become a reality, Jordan should consider placing higher Jordanian national interests above all other considerations. The writer said that Jordan, which has been providing facilities, support and backing for the Palestinians, and shouldering heavy burdens towards enabling the Palestinians to realise their national goals, should now reexamine the situation carefully. The government ought to take extra precautionary measures to fend off any harmful plots that could be concocted behind its back causing harm to its higher national interest, demanded the writer. We do respect the rights of the Palestinian people and that of their legitimate representatives in determining the future of the Palestinian people, provided that this does not infringe on the freedom of the Jordanian people and their right to free decision, said the writer. He said mutual respect of our brother's rights can only bolster future bilateral cooperation at all levels.

New Haiti leader aims to end army violence

By Michael Norton
The Associated Press

PORTE-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — New Prime Minister Robert Malval outlined his dream to diplomats: A Haiti where civilians can rule "without having to fear violence by the army."

But the 50-year-old businessman, sworn in Monday in Washington, returned home Tuesday to face soldiers reluctant to allow the return in October of Mr. Malval's boss, ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

He also urged lawmakers to approve the separation of the army from the police force, and persuade the coup backers to accept the presence of a 1,000-member U.N. military technical assistance team.

Nonetheless, he sees the possibility of his dream of civilian government without military intervention: "We believe we stand on the threshold," he said.

At his installation Monday in the sweltering Haitian embassy, Mr. Malval gave a stark message to those who may try to block the country's democratic rebirth: "You may kill us but you will never kill the dream of the people of Haiti to get their freedom," Mr. Malval said.

Mr. Aristide, looking on, said: "Today is a sign that the return to democracy will become a reality." He is to return home Oct. 30 under a U.N.-mediated plan agreed to by the army.

Mr. Malval knows how cruel history has been to Haid since its people staged the modern world's first successful slave rebellion. "Since 1804," he told the Organisation of American States (OAS) late Monday, "The Haitian people have sought to achieve liberty, equality and fraternity."

He pledged to restore human rights, noting an OAS human rights report that found at least

1,500 people have been killed in the 1991 coup overthrowing Mr. Aristide.

Mr. Malval also must attempt to reorganise an economy shattered by nearly two years of international sanctions. The sanctions, intended to pressure the military to restore democracy, were suspended Friday. But economists say their suspension is no cure-all.

"It would be illusory to believe the end of the embargo will put an end to the important economic problems of this country, since all of its resources — natural, material, human and financial have been affected," Central Bank economist Kesner Pharel has told Radio Metropole.

Mr. Malval's incoming cabinet is finding out that its predecessors spent freely despite the suspension of foreign aid, slumping corporate tax receipts and dwindling customs' charges under a flood of contraband.

The military-backed regimes reversed internationally applauded austerity programmes imposed by Mr. Aristide.

Since the coup, high-ranking army officers and bureaucrats have been accused of heavy involvement in contraband operations and of raking off money from state-run enterprises.

"There is corruption from the top of the ladder to the bottom," outgoing Commerce Minister Saïde Laine said earlier this year.

The government is by far the biggest employer in Haiti, the Americas' poorest nation.

Sociologist Herard Jadeote, an aide to the military-backed government, said government workers could begin a sabotage campaign if Mr. Malval attempted a purge.

Mr. Malval promised "no witch-hunt" of government workers but told parliament last week that bureaucrats must prove their competence.

Weekly Political Pulse

By Waleed Sadi

The Oslo deal — federation, but with who?

into the overall scheme.

Reading through the fine lines in His Majesty King Hussein's television interview with Ghassan Twelwi few days ago, one sense the bitter disappointment of the Jordanian side over the way the PLO kept Amman in the dark. And when the Monarch declares that "we reject any agreement to which we are not a party and any imposition of such agreement on us," it becomes amply clear that while accepting the prerogative of the Palestinians to make their own independent decisions, the extent of the Jordanian support to their deal will not go as far as the level where it may affect Jordan itself, one way or another.

This is in essence a conditional acceptance or endorsement of the PLO-Israeli agreement including its protocols notwithstanding His Majesty King Hussein's declaration Saturday that Jordan supports fully the Oslo accord. Many observers saw an expression of a complete turn about in King Hussein's press conference at the Royal Palace. I do not see a substantive difference between what the monarch had said earlier on the subject and what he enunciated Saturday. On both occasions, King Hussein expressed total support for an independent Palestinian decision but did not conceal his disappointment at the fact that the details of the agreement was not revealed to him in due course. Now that the official text of the agreement was disclosed to Jordan Friday, the King found also the contents of the accord generally acceptable not in so far as they affect to Jordan but rather as far as they offer good possibilities for peace between the Palestinians and the Israelis especially when it became clearer than ever that the Gaza-Jericho deal is only the beginning of the process for the implementation of Resolution 242 on the entire West Bank including East Jerusalem.

In retrospect, the region had a hint of where the Kingdom, really stands on the Palestinian-Israeli accord earlier when Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali stated Thursday that the agreement "would not hurt Jordan." "On the contrary," the Prime Minister went on to say, "it will provide an opportunity for Palestinian refugees since 1967 to return to the West Bank." Dr. Al Majali had in mind the hundreds of thousands of Palestinian refugees and expellees in such big numbers would change not only the economic climate in the country but also the political.

The strain of the Oslo accord on the Jordanian-Palestinian relations would remain with us for a while at least. The immediate reaction of Jordan was to withdraw the "umbrella" formula that facilitated the participation of the Palestinians in the peace process. Actually this decision is a natural result of the Oslo accord which rendered the umbrella scheme redundant after it was overtaken by the recent developments. This leaves the Jordanian-Palestinian relations in need for intensive care notwithstanding the rhetoric to the contrary. The PLO needs to take the sincere initiative for healing the wounds and Jordan can be expected to respond in kind in due course.

The earthquake of accords and their impact on Arab Americans and American Jews

By Dr. James Zogby

THE NEWS of a breakthrough agreement between Israel and the PLO hit Washington like an earthquake last week. Initial reactions among Arab Americans and American Jews have differed only slightly from those in the Middle East. For the most part, there was widespread excitement and support. The opposition in both camps was caught by surprise and has yet to mobilise.

While many Arab Americans have followed the recent fissures in the PLO, and some have voiced their support for the dissidents who charge a lack of democracy or frustration over administrative issues, the drama and significance of the agreement has nevertheless won praise.

There are Arab American ideological opponents of the accords, to be sure, those who fear that "Gaza-Jericho" is a trap or those, especially the 1948 refugees from Haifa, Jaffa, Akka, etc., who feel enormous personal loss and even anger. There are also Hamas supporters who have denounced the agreement as a betrayal. But the problem faced by these Arab American opponents of the accords is their inability to propose any meaningful alternative. Their mystical appeals to unity or continued struggle ring hollow. As if there haven't already been eight decades of struggle, or as if unity in itself were a solution. Most Palestinian Americans who have called our offices or who have called into television and radio shows simply express relief that peace may be at hand and that the bloodshed and daily brutality and humiliation of the occupation may be coming to an end.

These people are not dreamers; we are aware of all the difficulties these accords will face and are also aware of all the pitfalls that may still need to be skirted before peace becomes a reality. But what most Arab American analysts, especially those working in American politics, have come to realise is that "politics is the art of the possible."

It has long been clear to Arab Americans (as it has now become clear to the PLO) that no American administration was going to intervene to press concessions from Israel. In a sense, the Norway meetings represented a certain symmetry. Mr. Rabin came to realise that the Palestinian delegation appointed under the Madrid rules couldn't make an agreement and the PLO realised that the U.S. was not going to push Israel into making an agreement and so both parties needed to make an agreement with each other.

While many Arab Americans would have liked to see Israel yield territory immediately and

As AIPAC ponders the prospect of lobbying to win congressional support for a U.S. grant to finance a PLO-led interim government in Gaza and West Bank, one of its leaders expressed... his realisation of the dramatic effect of this earthquake. Arab Americans, in an entirely different way, are preparing for a new political reality. Will this agreement, they wonder, open doors in Washington that have until now been closed? What are they asking, are the new challenges and new opportunities that this now accord will bring?"

In many ways this new situation will not end our work, but will begin an entirely new set of work priorities. There are many "ifs" that must be resolved if peace is to become a reality.

And, despite our internal debate, there is real enthusiasm for what has occurred.

"As AIPAC ponders the prospect of lobbying to win congressional support for a U.S. grant to finance a PLO-led interim government in Gaza and West Bank, one of its leaders expressed... his realisation of the dramatic effect of this earthquake. Arab Americans, in an entirely different way, are preparing for a new political reality. Will this agreement, they wonder, open doors in Washington that have until now been closed? What are they asking, are the new challenges and new opportunities that this now accord will bring?"

American Jews are also experiencing an internal debate. They were ill-prepared for the earthquake. The American Likudiks were schooled for many years to view any interaction with the PLO as taboo and "anti-Israel." Palestinian nationalism was similarly viewed as unspeakable. To see major American Jewish leaders, therefore, praising the wisdom and courage of Rabin for having talked with PLO is, to say the least, rather startling.

While such a view is to be expected from the Americans for Peace Now and even the American Jewish Congress, it is interesting to note that AIPAC is organising a campaign to "sell" the agreement to the Jewish community in order to counter expected opposition from their right-wing elements. Given recent upheavals within AIPAC, this agreement can help both to transform the organisation, solidify the position of its new pro-Rabin committee, and convince the Rabin government of its loyalty.

American supporters of Labour, even those within AIPAC, are therefore deeply involved in making this agreement work.

If it succeeds, they (like Rabin) will win their battle with the right. If it fails, they (like Rabin) will lose their hard-earned leadership within the community.

Some of the "ifs" can only be resolved by Palestinians and Israelis: final agreement on language, real guarantees that the first phase will lead to a second phase and to a just and lasting resolution to the conflict, an effective Palestinian administration that provides jobs, opportunities, improvement of daily life and greater security, an honest Israeli commitment to honour the accords in letter and spirit and to implement them in practice.

Yet, even after this, real issues will remain. Among them are Palestinian refugees in neighbouring Arab states and the significant "final status" issue of Jerusalem and the status of Israeli settlements.

But in the midst of the shock of the "agreement" there is the dawning of a new awareness that,

with peace, a stable interim period of real development and genuine progress, many issues that today seem insoluble will be solved as trust and confidence increase.

It is in this context that this "agreement" is supportable. It is, in and by itself, not a peace accord, but delineates a process for hard work that can make peace a reality by transforming

relations between Israelis and Palestinians, lead to an independent Palestinian state and a resolution of all issues between the two peoples.

Those are some of the issues that only Israelis and Palestinians can solve. But there is a full agenda facing both Arab Americans and American Jews. U.S. support will be necessary if Middle East peace is to take hold. It is now clear that the Clinton administration is strongly committed to the Israel-PLO agreement. But Congress must be won over as well. It is noteworthy that only a few members of Congress have spoken out in support of the "Gaza-Jericho" plan.

Despite the fact that the AIPAC's president will work for the agreement, there will be a battle to win over the major contributors in the Jewish community — many of whom are Likud supporters and may be inclined to encourage the Congress to oppose the aid package that will be necessary to solidify the agreement. Arab Americans and American Jews will, it appears, have to join forces to win congressional approval to provide short-and long-term support for this peace process.

But despite this type of cooperation between Arab Americans and American Jews on broad issues involving U.S. policy, there is a strong possibility that differences will remain. For example, Arab Americans will confront new responsibilities which they will have to address as the peace process unfolds. Issues such as Gulf security, stable and strong support for Arab allies, support for governments experimenting with new forms of government or facing new internal and external threats and expansion of U.S.-Arab trade opportunities.

The earthquake of the Arab-Israeli peace will not settle all the problems facing the region or all the issues of U.S.-Arab relations. In fact, peace may only unearth some hitherto dormant problems and bring other tensions into sharper focus. But despite these challenges and new realisations, there is a palpable sense of relief.

Israel has broken a taboo. Palestinian national rights have been recognised; those of us who have been punished in the U.S. for supporting Palestinian nationalism can now claim a certain vindication; and if we work to make the "ifs" facing us a reality, at least some semblance of normality can at last come to the Middle East.

And even as we face the new challenges, we can do so with a renewed sense of purpose.

The writer is president of the Washington-based Arab American Institute. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

LETTERS

History behind Oslo accord

To the Editor:

I think many would agree that the Jordan Times has always been the best source of balanced and in-depth news and analyses in Jordan.

After reading Rami Khouri's column, "Jericho-Gaza — a small triumph to build on" (Aug. 31), and Lamis Andoni's article, "Arabs are taking new risk for peace — the question is: Will it work?" (Sept. 2-3), I feel compelled to write on the issue in question. There is no doubt that the quick events of an unexpected breakthrough between the PLO and the Israelis is history in the making, to say the least. Hence, it should be looked upon from a historical point of view by connecting the news of the breakthrough with events that preceded it. To do that, one can go back as far as one chooses in the history of the whole issue. Let me recall some events since the Madrid Conference, which was another major historical event:

The Palestinians went to Madrid reluctantly and under very difficult conditions and pressure from many sides, including Arab parties under one major pretext: that the longer Arabs in general and Palestinians in particular waited, the less they would get from Israel due to the new international circumstances of the "new world order," among other reasons.

It was obvious from the beginning of the Madrid process that the measure of success or failure of the Arab negotiators would mainly depend on the amount of their real coordination or lack of it. It was equally obvious from the start, as is now, that this coordination was at a minimal level, as His Majesty King Hussein confirmed during his most recent interview with Mr. Ghassan Twelwi.

Several times prior to the rounds of negotiations in Washington the Palestinians were reluctant to continue the talks, particularly in the ninth round after Israel deported some 400 Palestinians to south Lebanon. To suspend Arab participation then would have been universally unacceptable, thus forcing Israel to repatriate the expellees, setting a precedent for Israel to give in to international legitimacy and pressure, and improving the Arab negotiator's position. Instead, the Palestinian team was once again pressured from every direction, including from some of its Arab partners, to go back to Washington.

The last few months witnessed the near destruction of the PLO, again as a result of political and financial pressures from many sides, including Arab ones, and it reached a point of numerous resignations from within the organisation and deepening the internal rifts.

The secret talks between the PLO and Israel were carried out in Europe, which has major interests in the Middle East and was eager to play an active role in the peace process since the beginning, but, like the U.N., was kept away by the Americans. The Europeans, anyway, had always been more balanced than the U.S. ever was when it came to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

Therefore, to be fair to everybody, thing should be put before the real reasons behind Mr. Arfat's taking a new risk for peace?

U.S.-Russian space station will cost America some prestige and jobs

By Harry F. Rosenthal

The Associated Press
WASHINGTON — The new U.S. and Russian space alliance may rescue the space station programmes of both nations but at a cost of American prestige and some jobs.

The two nations have settled on a joint venture that will allow Americans astronauts to spend a total two years' time on the orbiting Mir space station and put U.S. experiments on Russian craft. It also calls for mutual development of an electrical power system to replace damaged space station solar arrays.

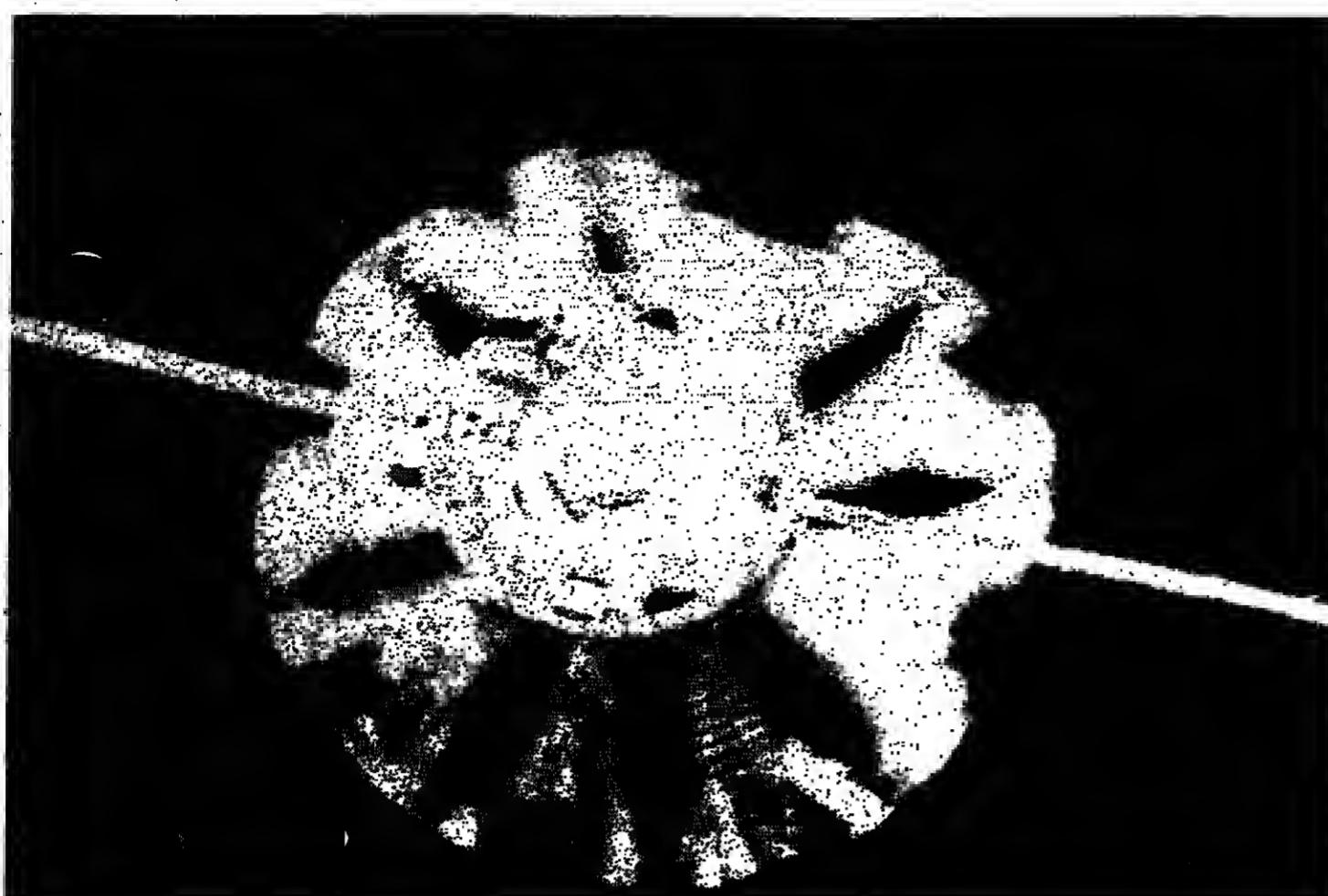
"It is the intent of the U.S. and Russia to undertake a cooperative human space flight programme," according to a statement issued following two days of meetings between Vice President Al Gore and Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the Russian Space Agency were instructed to develop a detailed plan of activities by Nov. 1 that then will be cemented with specific agreements.

The agreement marks a significant change in U.S. space policy, which since the 1950s has been driven by achieving preeminence over the former Soviet Union in technology and space exploration.

And it marks another turn in the long road to build space station Freedom, the Reagan-era scheme that already has cost \$9 billion and which has been a subject of scorn in much of the U.S. scientific community and hostility in a cost-conscious Congress. Freedom was scheduled for construction in earth orbit by the end of the decade.

"The combined space station will be significantly better than any of the options we could orbit on our own," Mr. Gore said at Thursday's signing ceremony. He said the new station also would be less expensive and would fly



The transport spacecraft Progress, with a solar sail from the orbital Mir station, conducting an experiment. Americans

want to join the Russians in a bid to rescue the space station programmes of both nations (AFP photo)

sooner than Freedom.

NASA administrator Daniel Goldin said: "A new partnership in space between two former adversaries offers considerable economic advantages for both countries."

Mr. Goldin said: "Russian participation will not have a significant impact on U.S. jobs" but conceded "there will be areas where we rely on proven Russian

systems."

The scope of activities envisioned will far eclipse previous joint ventures between the two spacefaring nations.

The cash-hungry Russians will be paid \$400 million in the next four years for goods and services, which include the two modules to be attached to their Mir for American experiments.

The Russians reportedly have

built the modules but don't have money for the instruments and experiments to use them.

A major concession by the United States calls for the two nations to "operate in an orbit which is accessible by both U.S. and Russian resources."

That means some launches from Russia's space port at Baikonur, which puts spacecraft into orbits much farther north

and south than from the United States. NASA generally flies the shuttle in orbits at a 28.5 degree angle from the Equator. In order to power its way into the Russian orbit of 51.6 degrees, the space shuttle has to reduce its cargo weight by 5,455 kilos — roughly one-fourth.

The weight loss consequences will be felt in reduced cargo on construction flights from the Un-

ited States during assembly of the space station. It also causes difficulties for two of America's international partners, Japan, and the European Space Agency.

Japan has opposed the Russian orbit because its space station module is so heavy it will have to be split in two for transport on the shuttle. The Europeans have much the same problem, but they have been working on reducing the size of their module.

The U.S.-Russia plan calls for development of a common space suit and common environmental-control and life-support systems. That, too, will be a plus and a minus for the United States. The Russian space suit is conceded to be better than its American counterpart, but cosmonauts have had to cut space walks short because their visors fog.

One area in which both nations will profit is by pooling research on using solar dynamics to create electricity. The electricity-producing solar arrays now in use are big, bulky, create drag and deteriorate in the harsh space environment.

An alternative is solar dynamics in which dishes, reflectors and concentrators collect solar energy and use it to run an engine that generates power. Using such a device would eliminate the need for a truss, the lattice-like frame that holds various components.

The administration may have trouble selling the joint venture to Congress. The space station survived extinction in the house on two grounds: American jobs and American preeminence in space.

But the Senate, which has yet to act on the NASA budget, may wonder whether the United States is subsidising Russia and creating jobs there to build a new space station to which the United States will attach a laboratory.

And, if that is the case, how can the United States claim preeminence?

Even the teachers do not trust public schools

By George F. Will

SAN DIEGO — In November, California, frequent incubator of America's future, will conduct a vote eclipsing in importance last year's basal presidential choice. If passed, Proposition 174 will offer parents vouchers worth at least half the cost of educating a child in a public school (currently \$5,200) and redeemable as private school tuition. If the chosen school costs less than \$2,600, the saving can be used for subsequent grades, or for college.

Private schools often get better results (gauged by test scores and graduation rates) than public schools, but cost less per pupil than public schools. So the larger the number of Californians who would use Proposition 174 vouchers to choose private schools, the more the state would save. Furthermore, Proposition 174 would spur creation of schools at a time when California's burgeoning school-age population requires, if class sizes are to be maintained, creation of a 600-pupil school every day for 10 years.

Inflation-adjusted public education spending per pupil has about doubled every 20 years since 1945. San Diego teachers' salaries doubled in the last decade, and top administrators average \$30,000 a year.

Many who supported forced

education were liberal with children in private schools; many who oppose making school choice available to all parents are themselves parents choosing private schools (the Clintons, for example).

Nationwide, about half of all urban public school teachers with school-age children send their children to private schools. If (the data are being compiled) the percentage of California public school teachers sending their children away from public schools is higher than the percentage of the general population doing so, supporters of Proposition 174 can ask: What do teachers know about the public schools that voters ought to bear in mind in November?

Opponents of Proposition 174 have sunk to what can best be called boring hysteria. For example, Kathleen Brown, the Democratic prohabile gubernatorial nominee, warns darkly that a "witches' coven" is talking about starting a school funded by Proposition 174 vouchers. And a hysteria-monger on the side of the California Teachers Association says that in private schools "a science course could be teaching kids how to make Molotov cocktails."

Actually, what the union calls "unregulated and unaccountable voucher schools" would not be immune from state regulation, and would be accountable to empowered parents who could remove their children from

Forbes calls the NEA's "Brezhnev doctrine" — socialism in the form of government control of education, may not be rolled back anywhere.

But Californians have noticed

the perverse correlation: increasing NEA arrogance and increasing spending on public education coinciding with a decline in educational quality. And Californians can take lawmaking into their own hands.

In 1978 they slashed property taxes with Proposition 13, thereby presaging the 1988 election results. The NEA is terrified that Proposition 174, another blow against government's self-aggrandizing grip on society, may have a similar national resonance.

Mr. Khachigian thinks that if his side is outpaced by "only" 3 to 1, Proposition 174 will pass. The NEA asserts that permitting parental choice will devastate public education. Mr. Khachigian can rest his case on that assertion, the NEA's damning assessment of public education — Washington Post.

Kuwaiti rolling pigeons command sky-high prices

By Inas Ersan

Reuter

KUWAIT — Acrobatic pigeons are all the rage in Kuwait where "rollers" — birds that stage reverse somersaults in flight — are worth their weight in gold.

"She's just like a dancer," ginned a woher Walid Al Dughaisheh as one of his birds fluttered high above the Kuwaiti desert and then slowed, as if taking a deep breath.

The bird started rolling backwards, repeatedly revolving in a clear blue sky while its wings made rapid, sharp claps. Seconds later it resumed its normal flight.

Mr. Dughaisheh, a fireman and a fancier in one of the Gulf's most popular hobbies, was impressed.

"A brilliant woman dancer can give a new meaning to your life, and so can a pigeon," he said. "This is an art."

More than 4,000, Kuwaitis raise pigeons, mostly for the pleasures of developing and watching their acrobatic ability — a genetic characteristic cultivated through breeding.

Pigeon raising here dates back to earliest times but the practice has grown in recent decades because oil wealth has prompted an enthusiastic private market in the birds.

Like fanciers in dozens of other countries, Kuwaitis also breed homing pigeons for racing and "fancy" pigeons for beauty.

But acrobatic birds, especially the "galah" (roller) that

flutters backwards claws-over-head, are by far their favourites. The best are stars of competitions held every winter.

Kuwaitis think less highly of other pigeon breeds that twist like a corkscrew in flight or tumble as if hit by a bullet.

The revolving pigeons they have in Europe are beginners. They are not the type we want because they do not play the games we want," said leading breeder Mohammad Al Hamad.

Kuwaitis say they obtained the best "rollers" from enthusiasts in the Iraqi region of Al Zubair about 40 years ago.

They went on to corner the market in the region's best breeds.

The hobby can be a profit-

able business. Kuwaitis will pay 4,000 dinars (\$13,000) for the privilege of owning a galah with a particular flair to its odd-looking reverse somersaults.

"Pigeons are just like kids," said Mr. Walid. "The first time they go out they try to come back, but they get lost. After they become familiar with a place, it becomes easier."

Birds are housed between one and 20 to a cage. Some of the cages are air-conditioned with electric lamps, hanging miniature decorative jars and a sculpted pigeon-sized basin for a bed.

The Kuwaitis train their birds to fly in strong winter winds and competitors are judges nn more than just rolling.

Steadiness is highly prized. As in human gymnastics, the birds' ability to finish their exercise by landing gracefully — in the birds' case on a perch — is also crucial.

"If a bird can fly over the very same area and roll, even if the wind is strong, it is a good galab," Mr. Jamal said.

"The stronger the wind the

better the flying," said Mr. Hamad.

"A good pigeon moves forward steadily into the wind while revolving. It must also lean sometimes to the left and sometimes to the right, and making a clapping sound with its wings."

The normal wind speed

should be between 25 and 70 kilometres per hour. If there wasn't this force of wind there would be no difference between a one dinar (\$3.3) pigeon and a 10,000 dinar (\$33,000) one."

Breeders fuss constantly about the birds' health. One once sent an ailing star performer to bird specialists in Europe.

Another rotted an air-

conditioned apartment to house pigeons weakened by summer heat.

Breeders investigate the birds' bloodline thoroughly and even compile books of pigeon family trees.

"The stronger the wind the

Cross currents of change impel Israel, PLO towards peace

By Nicolas B. Tatro

The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was running out of time and needed to deliver on campaign promises before his volatile coalition came apart.

PLO leader Yasser Arafat also felt the heat: he was running out of money and facing a rebellion in his ranks.

Those factors helped break a taboo on direct negotiations that strangled previous initiatives.

But they were also influenced by larger forces, crosscurrents of change that swept the region and the world.

First there was the Palestinian intifada, or uprising.

After nearly six years, the 1.8 million Palestinians in the occupied lands were weary of bloodshed and squeezed economically, by incessant strike calls and a loss of jobs and commerce in Israel.

Israelis have killed 1,135 Palestinians in clashes and 748 Arabs have been killed by their fellows, most on suspicion of collaborating with Israel, in the uprising.

Abdul Sattar Qassem, a political science professor at Bir Zeit University in the West Bank, said the self-rule plan was "very timely" because Palestinians were in no position to resist.

"It is the people who face social and economic collapse and not Arafat," he said.

Palestinian leaders were nonetheless anxious to transform the uprising into an initiative that would end Israeli occupation before the anger and frustration were turned on them.

For Israel, the intifada ended illusions about living with the status quo. At least 145 Israelis died in the uprising.

Gaza, with its exploding

population and poverty, could no longer be controlled. Pressure built on politicians to find a solution that would bring the citizen-soldiers home.

There was also the Gulf war. The PLO backed the wrong horse, President Saddam Hussein of Iraq, and angry oil sheikhs cut off funds to Mr. Arafat — more than \$20 million of which had been spent in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip every month.

The war also prompted a change in Israeli strategic thinking.

Iraq: Missiles had easily reached Tel Aviv and wreaked havoc. The West Bank and Gaza Strip were no longer seen as a buffer against attack.

At the same time, there was the toll of the intifada. The Israeli public was not only tired of the repeated violence, they were also sick and tired of Gaza. It became difficult to make a case for Gaza being vital to security, said Naim Novick, an adviser to Foreign Minister Shimon Peres who helped negotiate the Gaza-Jericho plan with the PLO and Egypt.

Another regional development was the expansion of Islamic fundamentalism.

The fundamentalist Hamas, with wide influence in Gaza's crowded camps was challenging Mr. Arafat's control. The Gaza-Jericho option gave him an opportunity to recapture the momentum and to personally set a foothold on Palestinian land before his influence faded.

On the global level, there was an emerging point of view that posed a danger to both Palestinians and Israelis: That if you want to kill yourself, go ahead, we won't get involved."

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Economy

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1993

ILO: More part-time workers, slim benefits

WASHINGTON (R) — One out of every seven workers in industrialised nations holds a part-time job, most of them women and many without the benefits or protection given to full-time employees, a U.N. agency said Sunday.

About 60 million people work part-time in industrialised countries, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) said in an analysis of the comparatively recent trend in employment. In some nations, 25 per cent of workers hold part-time jobs.

"Until a few decades ago, it used to be assumed the vast majority, if not all workers, would automatically conform to the standard full-time working pattern," the agency said in a report.

The growth of part-time work in the industrialised countries has coincided with the rise in women's labour market participation rates over recent decades and the increasing employment share of the service sector," the report said.

More than 25 per cent of working women hold part-time jobs, compared to four per cent of men in the 24 industrialised nations in the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). OECD members include United States, Canada, Japan, Australia, New Zealand and most of western Europe.

While part-time work offers the benefit of workplace flexibil-

ity, allowing people extra time for professional or family goals and giving employers greater ability to match staffing with workloads, it can fall short in wages and worker protection, said Vittorio Di Martino, an ILO labour expert.

Social security systems are targeted toward full-time workers and often set thresholds on hours that must be worked in a week in order to be eligible for benefits.

As a result, part-time workers "may be fully out or partly out of the system," Mr. Di Martino said in an interview.

"While the majority of part-time workers that way voluntarily, many are forced to accept part-time jobs because of a lack of full-time opportunities, which reflects the persistently weak job market in the industrialised world," ILO Director General Michel Hansen said in a statement.

ILO has recommended part-time and temporary workers should be given job-security and social security benefits equivalent to full-time workers, although entitlement can be pro-rated.

"As a group, part-time workers receive lower rates of pay in most countries than full-timers," the report said, although there is a small movement in labor contracts for equal hourly rates.

Lower wages are due partly because part-timers most frequently are hired for low-pay work but also because they rarely

qualify for overtime pay, premiums for working on holidays or training allowances.

The number of women who are part-time workers in industrialised nations ranges from 90 per cent in Belgium and Germany to around 65 per cent in Italy, Greece and the United States, the report said.

Between 1979 and 1990, proportion of part-time workers in the workforce rose in most industrialised countries. Highest rates are found in the Netherlands, where one-third of all workers are part-timers, and Norway, where 26 per cent are.

In Canada, United States and the Nordic countries, there are signs the part-time employment peaked in 1982-1983 and has fallen or, in the case of Canada, levelled off.

Statistics about part-time work are scarce outside developed nations, the ILO report said, but part-time work seems to be increasing globally. There is some evidence, it said, that part-time work in Latin America has reached the same level as in some European nations.

U.S. Labour Secretary Robert Reich, in a recent speech, noted the role part-time work has assumed in the tepid U.S. economy. One-quarter of the private-sector jobs created in the first half of this year went to part-time workers, he said.

"Offering none of the job security American workers once took for granted."

Earnings growth of most Asian airlines to accelerate — report

SINGAPORE (AFP) — Most Asian airlines, whose earnings have dropped over the last three years, are poised to reap the benefits of resource-pooling and curtailed expansion plans, according to an industry report released here Sunday.

Income growth should also accelerate with the opening up of high growth markets in China, Vietnam and India, according to the report released by the Singapore-based Merrill Lynch International Bank Ltd.

Excluding Japan, where carriers are suffering from high costs and economic recession, "we view the prospects of Asian airlines very positively," the report said as it rated Singapore Airlines the "favourite" followed by Hong Kong-based Cathay Pacific.

The global airline industry suffered its third straight year of recession in 1992, posting a reported \$10 billion in net losses with U.S. airlines the biggest losers.

European carriers also took heavy losses but Asia-Pacific carriers generally remained profitable, despite some profit shrinkage.

The Merrill Lynch report said that over the next few years Asian airlines would devote their resources to serving the "new, significant and fast-growing"

Chinese, Indian and Vietnamese markets as well as South Korea and Taiwan.

The growth rate of Chinese Airlines' air traffic would also increase, even though the Civil Aviation Authority of China (CAAC) would like to see more controlled expansion for safety and security reasons, the report said.

"We think that a combination of strong demand and greater autonomy of Chinese airlines not under the CAAC's control will push the growth rate significantly higher than CAAC's forecast" of 15.3 per cent in 1993 from 32.9 per cent in 1992, it said.

The report said India's civil aviation market should also begin

to take off with the proposed privatisation of state-owned Air India and Indian Airlines.

It said demand should be driven by India's recent liberalisation of investment and trade rules which is attracting foreign businessmen.

The report also said the evolution of a joint computer reservation system and frequent flyer programme by several Asian airlines was only the beginning of a regional effort.

On recent steps taken by Asian airlines to cut capacity plans, the report said current capacity growth rates were "much more in balance with underlying demand growth" and augured well for future earnings.

Two Indian banks merge

NEW DELHI (AFP) — A perennially loss-making Indian government bank has been merged with another state-owned bank in the first amalgamation of its kind, the Federal Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said in a statement published Sunday. The New Bank of India (NBI), whose accumulated losses total \$57.3 million, was merged with the cash rich Punjab National Bank (PNB) Sunday with immediate effect, the Indian Express and other newspapers said. "The overall financial position of NBI has been causing concern to the government... and different options were under active consideration for some time," the RBI statement said. The finance ministry eventually decided to merge NBI into PNB, which earned an operating profit of \$86 million in fiscal 1992-93. The merger marked the first of two state run banks in India. The PNB, one of the country's oldest banks, has taken over five private banks since 1951.

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



"I thought about getting you pearls, but a candy necklace has prettier colors!"

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

GIMAC

TURNS

CAHBLE

RESPON

THAT SCRABBLE WORD GAME

By Henn Arnold

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: "DOCTOR."

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: AVAIL BOWER HAMMER BEWAIL

Answer: How you might announce the birth of a son to your friends—BY HEIR MAIL

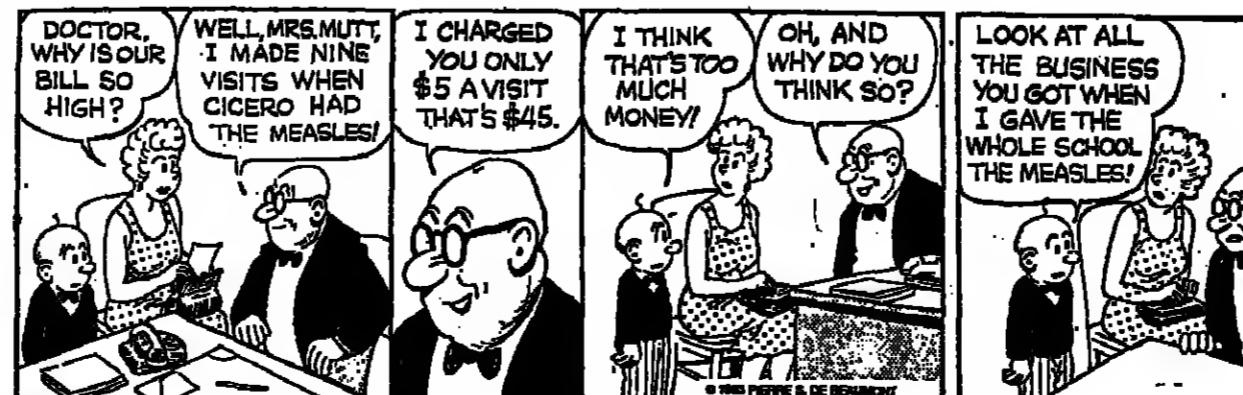
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n Jeff



Outlook dire for Europe's car makers

FRANKFURT (R) — Europe's car makers face at least 12 more months of anguish as failing sales signal more job cuts and plant closures, industry analysts said Sunday.

They said European manufacturers, gathered in Frankfurt for the biennial international car show this week, are unlikely to see an upturn until autumn 1994 at the earliest.

Car sales have declined as recession tightened its grip on western Europe and experts believe manufacturers will be forced to shut factories and fire workers on an unprecedented scale.

Some expert analysts believe that up to 150,000 jobs are in jeopardy across Europe.

Things have gone wrong with bewildering speed. Only last year sales bit record 13.5 million after accelerating smoothly through the eighties, from just over 10 million in 1984.

The slump in car sales reflects the deepening recession and burgeoning unemployment in Germany, Europe's biggest car market, France and Italy.

Only Britain, an early recession victim, has started to recover.

In the rest of Europe many in

work fear for their futures. The sales slump has already led to job cuts and plant closures. More are on the cards.

"Over the next 12 months we can expect a substantial reduction in the European industry's workforce, additional plant closures, and further consolidation in the industry with the full merger of Renault and Volvo," says Jonathan Storey, director of England-based European Auto-motive Research.

Karl Ludvigsen, managing director of Euromotor Reports, believes that job losses across Europe will have to reach 150,000, given the contraction in sales, and the need to cut costs and counter competition from Japan.

"Fifty thousand to 70,000 more jobs will go in Germany — and you can double that for the rest of Europe," said Bob Bucknell, investment analyst at London stockbrokers Carr, Kite and Aitken.

The sales crisis is also causing manufacturers to move down market as wary consumers become more practical in their choice of car. Even luxury mak-

ers like BMW and Mercedes have announced plans to sell mini cars in two or three years time.

Two years ago the biggest attraction at the Frankfurt show was the BMW 8 series sports car. This time around Fiat's down-to-earth small family car the "Punto" is likely to be the most important new car at the show.

"The car companies are moving down market," said MIRU's Bhaskar. "All manufacturers including specialists are doing this. You're seeing luxury versions of small cars and this trend will be emphasised at Frankfurt," he added.

As well as the "Punto", new cars on show to the public for the first time in Frankfurt include the Saab 900, the aluminium bodied Audi V8, and a restyled Volkswagen Passat.

Mazda unveils its Xedos 9, and Toyota is expected to announce plans to sell the Lexus GS300 in Europe for the first time. Both these Japanese cars will compete at the high end of the executive car class, dominated now by the BMW 750i series.

The show is open to the public from Sept. 9 until the 19th.

Gore report said to target 252,000 federal jobs

WASHINGTON (R) — A cost-saving report due Tuesday from U.S. Vice President Al Gore recommends eliminating more than twice the number of federal jobs already slated to be cut, the Washington Post said Sunday.

The report recommends President Bill Clinton cut 252,000 federal jobs, reducing the civil service by 12 per cent and bringing it below the two million employee mark for the first time since 1966, the Post said citing unnamed sources.

Mr. Clinton earlier this year proposed reducing the federal work force by 100,000.

The newspaper said excerpts from the report "show that the administration intends to dump regulations that affect virtually every corner of the bureaucracy and carve deeply into headquarters staff, supervisors, budget analysts, accountants and procurement and personnel specialists."

The report recommends changes that would ostensibly result in \$105 billion in estimated savings, according to the Post.

Those gained by \$22 billion gained by changing the method of purchasing supplies and services, \$5.4 billion by modernising government computer and information system and \$3.3 billion by simplifying paperwork.

Because the administration would probably be unable to meet its job-reduction goal solely through attrition, the Gore report recommends Congress offer early retirement and buyout packages, according to the newspaper.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY SEPTEMBER 6, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Rights Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES:

You have the force and the drive to put into effect your strongest intuitions and to channel all that energy so that it can be released wisely and provide the best results. Complete mental work.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Money masters are at the centre of your activities today but think out carefully before you do anything that can get involved in a long time project.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You are awoken with a determination to do something of a very personal nature but think it over and double-check that its ok before putting in motion.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) An anxiety can ruin your day unless you rise above it quickly and find objective ways to solve which can bring you benefits.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Decide what you can best do to please an upset companion and then you will be able to enjoy other friends and engage in congenial outlets.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Steer clear of any outside pressures early on it downgrades your efforts but afterwards you can get out in the world and achieve much of value.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Think about new activity before you put in motion and change methods if you can find a better way to make a work to your benefit, in your behalf.

THE Daily Crossword



AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET					
SOCIETY BANK COTTON BANK JORDAN					
CHARTERED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SUNDAY 06/09/1993					
COMPANY'S NAME	TRADED VOLUME	PREV. PRICE JD	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	PRICE
JORDAN BANK	121,210	189.500	170.500	173.000	
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	33,140	3.780	5.000	5.000	
BANK OF JORDAN	6,070	1.060	1.060	2.000	
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	2,990	3.950	4.000	4.030	
THE SOCOMECHANICAL BANK	5,950	2.970	3.000	3.000	
JORDAN EQUITY BANK	400	4.000	4.000	4.000	
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL BANK	1,235	3.800	3.000	3.020	
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	1,235	3.800	3.000	3.020	
JORDAN BUSINESS BANK	8,300	6.250	6.200	6.280	
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	3,793	4.560	4.580	4.650	
BELT ELWAH HOLDINGS/INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	181,012	1.250	1.250	1.250	
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	7,183	3.750	3.780	3.780	
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	377,454	2.000	2.000	2.120	
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	1,363	3.800	3.800	3.800	
JORDAN TOURISM & REPA COMPLEX	8,813	0.530	0.540	0.550	
JORDAN PETROLEUM SERVICES	3,166	3.040	3.000	3.000	
JORDAN PETROLEUM SERVICES	29,770	1.700	1.700	1.700	
JORDAN GOLD REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	1,100	2.000	2.000	2.000	
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	14,120	2.150	2.150	2.190	
JORDAN INDUSTRIES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE UNITED MIDDLE EAST'S COMMERCIAL HOTELS	7,968	2.630	2.680	2.650	
JORDAN INVEST. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	400	2.000	2.000	2.000	
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL PLASTICS	10,000	1.000	1.000	1.000	
JORDAN PETROLEUM COMPANY	3,743	0.480	0.410	0.410	
JORDAN PETROLEUM COMPANY 6 AGRICULTURAL	13,750	0.450	0.450	0.450	
JORDAN PETROLEUM COMPANY 6 AGRICULTURAL	16,700	1.000	1.000	1.000	
JORDAN PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	61,090	8.470	8.500	8.700	
JORDAN CERAMIC INDUSTRIES	3,205	7.400	7.500	7.500	
JORDAN PIPE MANUFACTURING	1,282	4.150	4.150	4.150	
JORDAN PAPER & CARDBOARD FACTORIES	1,282	4.150	4.150	4.150	
JORDAN GLASS INDUSTRIES	1,715	0.420	0.480	0.420	
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	80,052	14.070	14.500	15.000	
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	1,363	3.350	3.350	3.400	
JORDAN MEDICAL CORPORATION	18,490	0.380	0.380	0.380	
JORDAN METALLIC INDUSTRIES	5,828	5.490	5.600	5.550	
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & MATCH/JONES	4,200	2.500	2.500	2.500	
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & MATCH/JONES	3,620	2.500	2.500	2.500	
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & MATCH/JONES	4,880	1.080	1.080	1.080	
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & MATCH/JONES	20,470	0.020	0.120	0.200	
JORDAN SULFUR CHEMICALS	8,280	3.450	3.450	3.450	
JORDAN GENERAL PLASTICS & CHEMICALS	7,950	1.200	1.200	1.080	
JORDAN KUWAIT CO. FOR AGRI. & FOOD PROD.	389	3.730	3.800	2.090	
JORDAN INVESTMENT	19,710	5.350	5.350	5.470	
GRAND TOTAL	2,163,882				
NO. OF TRADES EXCHANGED IN PARALLEL MARKET	1,6957				
TRADED VOLUME IN THE PARALLEL MARKET	37004				

Financial Jordan Times
Markets in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

Foreign Exchange Market Summary
(August 30 — September 3, 1993)

AMMAN — Dollar exchange rates witnessed substantial declines against European currencies over the past week due to the release of U.S. economic data with negative results. The U.S. unit, ended the week 2.97 per cent lower against the mark, 1.66 per cent lower against Sterling, while it moved 0.67 per cent higher against the yen.

As London and Hong Kong were closed on holiday Monday, trading was light in New York, as many traders preferred to stay on the sidelines and were reluctant to take new positions. The dollar fell back at the start of trading hours in response to weaker-than-expected U.S. new home sales figures released that day. The dollar managed to finish firmer against European currencies that day, however, but remained unchanged against the yen.

The dollar traded in narrow ranges Tuesday, but closed higher compared to the previous day on stronger-than-expected revised figures for U.S. Gross Domestic Product. Unconfirmed rumours of Bundesbank intervention, selling dollars, halted the dollar's rally. News that the U.S. consumer confidence index slipped further hampered the dollar. But a tiny rise in the Chicago purchasing managers' index helped the dollar from falling further. The dollar, thus ended at 1.6765 marks, whereas Sterling ended at 1.4919. Meanwhile, the yen weakened against the dollar on rumours that the Bank of Japan may cut the official 2.5 per cent discount rate by as much as 0.75 per cent in late September.

Wednesday, the dollar fell sharply against European currencies, especially the mark. Analysts attributed much of the mark's rise to positive industrial output figures in the western parts of Germany released that day. The dollar also fell back on growing expectations that Friday's U.S. employment report would show negative results. The dollar moved higher against the yen, however following continued intervention by the Bank of Japan, in addition to widespread rumours of an imminent cut in the Japanese discount rate.

The dollar witnessed further declines against European currencies for the remainder of the week. Analysts indicated that the mark moved higher against the dollar Thursday on growing beliefs that German interest rates are unlikely to come down in the near future. Comments by Bundesbank officials supporting this view, also dampened expectations of a further narrowing in the interest rate differential between the mark and the dollar in the near term. In addition, the mark benefited from fund flows out of the Belgian franc and into mark assets. Increases in Belgian franc interest rates orchestrated by the Belgian authorities failed to stabilise the franc within its original 2.25 per cent fluctuation band against the mark, which prompted the safe-haven mark buying activity on speculation that the Belgian authorities will soon abandon their attempts to restore the franc/mark ERM link. On the other hand, continued intervention by the Bank of Japan caused the dollar to move still higher against the yen. The U.S. unit, thus ended at 105.89 yen, its highest for the week.

The U.S. currency fell sharply against the mark and other European currencies Friday. Apart from disappointment with its performance the previous day, dollar sentiment was further hurt following the release of the U.S. jobs data for August, which, despite some positive aspects, showed negative results, causing increased uncertainty over the pace of the U.S. economic recovery.

To the meantime, some observers indicated that improving German economic data would support the German unit, and maintained that the mark should still out-perform other European currencies in the medium term. Others expected that the Fed to ease its monetary policy in response to negative U.S. jobs data. Under the influence of these expectations the U.S. unit closed sharply lower at 1.6160 marks, whereas Sterling ended at \$1.5300.

New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

Currency	27/8/93 Close	3/9/93 Close	Percent Change
Sterling Pound	1.5050	1.5300	1.66 %
Deutsche Mark	1.6640	1.6160	-2.97 %
Swiss Franc	1.4685	1.4204	3.59 %
French Franc	5.8255	5.6925	0.21 %
Japanese Yen	103.80	104.50	-0.67 %

USD Per NGN

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 5/9/1993

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6880	0.6900
Sterling Pound	1.0522	1.0575
Deutsche Mark	0.4248	0.4269
Swiss Franc	0.4828	0.4852
French Franc	0.1209	0.1215
Japanese Yen	0.6567	0.6600
Dutch Guilder	0.3786	0.3805
Swedish Krona	0.0860	0.0864
Italian Lira	0.0433	0.0435
Belgian Franc	0.01953	0.01963

*per 100

Inter-Arab trade plunges

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Trade between Arab countries has plunged over the last two years because of deep rifts caused by the Gulf war, an official report said Sunday.

After 13 per cent growth between 1986 and 1989, inter-Arab trade fell by 14 per cent in 1991 and declined again in 1992, said the Abu Dhabi-based Arab Monetary Fund (AMF).

Trade among Arab countries continued to decline due to the circumstances that accompanied the Gulf war. But its decline in 1992 was lower than in 1991, "it's report said, without giving a new figure.

The fall occurred at a time when overall Arab trade reached a 10-year high of \$244 billion in 1992, compared with \$230 billion in 1991, as a result of an increase in both exports and imports.

Imports rose by 5.1 per cent to \$107.6 billion and exports by 6.6 per cent to \$136.4 billion. Oil and gas accounted for most of the exports, standing at around \$96

billion. The AMF, the Arab League's main lending institution, said inter-Arab exports stood at only 7.3 per cent of their total exports in 1992 compared with 9.1 per cent in 1989. Imports also dropped to 7.3 per cent from 10 per cent.

"This underlines the need for intensifying efforts to free trade among Arab countries," the report said.

Inter-Arab trade has remained below 15 per cent of the total Arab trade due to political rifts, lack of funds in poor member states and customs barriers which persist despite a 20-year-old agreement on a free trade zone.

The problem was exacerbated by the 1991 Gulf war as dealing was almost crippled by political differences between wealthy Gulf states and Arab countries seen as pro-Iraqi.

The Arab League wants to boost inter-Arab trade as an essential step toward a long-

sought Arab common market. Its calls for boosting trade have intensified because of rising protectionism and the emergence of new world blocs.

"It has become clear that regional blocs worldwide are increasing and will remain the main pillar of the new international trade order," according to AMF Chairman Osama Al Faqih.

"This should prompt Arab states to increase trade cooperation and boost their competitive capability. This could be done through bolstering links within regional Arab groupings with the aim of reaching a common market which will strengthen their negotiating position with world blocs."

The AMF is spearheading the efforts to bolster flagging trade among the League's 21 members and it has created a \$500 million fund for the purpose.

But although it has a financing capacity of \$1 billion a year, the fund has extended only about \$250 million since it was launched in Abu Dhabi three years ago.

Arab Gulf banks seen performing better in '93

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The return of overseas funds and a Gulf business boom triggered by high government spending is set to boost profits of banks in the region to a record level in 1993, bankers said Saturday.

Most banks in the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) made record net profits in 1992 due to a fall in interest rates on deposits and a surge in credits and earnings are expected to be higher this year, the bankers said.

There is no doubt most banks will benefit from the economic upswing in the region due to higher government expenditure and a boom in the construction sector in all GCC states," a Saudi bank manager told AFP.

"Results so far show most Saudi banks performed better than the corresponding period of 1992, mainly because they extended more credits and large

funds have returned to the banks from abroad," he said.

Except for Kuwait, the other GCC states — Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) — projected higher expenditure in 1993 despite a persistent deficit in their budgets.

Government allocations for construction alone stood around \$7.5 billion but actual spending is expected to be much higher, Mr. Azzam said.

Bankers said credits in the GCC were expected to exceed those extended in 1992, when they stood at nearly \$67 billion.

"Banks will also largely benefit from the return of overseas funds, which were reflected in large growth in deposits. Estimates for 1993, show they have grown by around 12 per cent," a UAE banker said.

In the UAE, more than \$ billion in public and private funds are expected to be pumped into reconstruction financing over the coming years, according to the Emir Contractors Association.

The construction boom, low interest rates on deposits were the main reasons for record profits made by most G banks in 1992.

World News

Sihanouk reverses split with U.N.

PHNOM PENH (R) — Prince Sihanouk, in a letter to the United Nations peacekeeping force in Cambodia, has reversed his earlier decision to have nothing more to do with the international force.

In a separate letter to his son, Co-President Norodom Ranariddh, Prince Sihanouk also agreed about to make a U-turn on his refusal to return to the Cambodian throne he abdicated in 1955.

Hours after sending off angry acclaims to U.N. peacekeeping chief, Yasushi Akashi and Cambodian political parties, Prince Sihanouk sent conciliatory messages.

"Owing to the affection and gratitude toward Akashi and U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali, I have the honour to tell you I accept to restore relations with UNTAC," Prince Sihanouk said in a faxed letter to Mr. Akashi obtained from the royal palace Sunday.

"I will have the honour to receive you in Peking on Sept. 10," he said in the letter, which

palace sources said responded to a long letter sent by Akashi late Saturday.

Few were surprised by the reversal as Prince Sihanouk, head of state until he resigned the chair of the Supreme National Council Saturday, is given to abrupt changes of heart.

He also has a track record of blurring the boundaries between public and private statements.

A source close to the Sihanouk camp said earlier letters, apparently sent in a fit of pique, were intended to be private although copies were faxed to news agencies in Peking, where Prince Sihanouk is currently in residence.

Prince Sihanouk sent the letters because he was upset by news reports that foreigners, including officials of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), had criticised the interim government's intention to restore the monarchy, the source said.

"Sihanouk has always been very supportive of UNTAC. He just said if that's the way they

respond maybe I'll let them do the work alone," the source said.

There has been friction between Prince Sihanouk and UNTAC during the international body's presence in Cambodia, where in May it organised democratic elections designed to end 13 years of civil war.

The volatile prince has criticised U.N. officials for meddling in Cambodian politics and trying to shape the government that emerges from the democratic process, for instance by opposing his plan for an interim government.

The U.N. is careful publicly to emphasise Prince Sihanouk's importance for the future of the country, but officials privately express frustration at his frequent political gyrations.

Prince Sihanouk also sent a letter to Prince Ranariddh, his eldest son and a co-leader of the interim government, that took the stuffing out of his earlier refusal to become king.

"I have the right to make requests but I have no right to resist the will of the Cambodian people,

position as head of state.

J.S. Congress returns to face more controversy

WASHINGTON (R) — After ranging most of the year over S. P. President Bill Clinton's economic plan, Congress returns on its one-month summer recess to seek to face more fights over health care and crime.

The Senate reconvenes Tuesday to vote on the nomination of Evelyn Elders as surgeon general. The House of Representatives backs Wednesday.

Senate critics of Dr. Elders — outspoken advocate of abortion rights and birth control — they expect her to be confirmed despite their objections.

Mr. Clinton seems sure to face tough battles on other issues. Democrats have a 56-44 majority and control the Senate by 53 to 47 with one independent.

The president's plan to cut the deficit through tax increases and spending cuts passed by two votes in the House and in the Senate just before the Aug. 6 recess.

Bosnia.

Senate Republican leader Bob Dole of Kansas sent Mr. Clinton an open letter last week urging him to withdraw U.S. forces from Somalia and focus instead on a firmer stand in Bosnia.

Any one of these would be a major achievement.

"Many people say I'm pushing too hard for change," Mr. Clinton said in a recent broadcast. "I have faith that together we can make real the promise of democracy for all Americans."

The major business for Congress in September will be approving money needed to run government agencies in the fiscal year that begins Oct. 1. Only one of the 13 separate appropriations bills have been passed and there is pressure to make further spending cuts, especially in defense.

Foreign policy will also get plenty of attention. There is growing concern about U.S. military involvement in Somalia and frustration over the war in

we have enough votes if we can furnish 34 or 35 Republicans," Sen. Dole said in a television interview.

Mr. Clinton has also expressed confidence, saying that once members of Congress examine the pact they will support it.

Sen. Dole said he would try to cooperate on health care reform and the crime bill. Mr. Clinton will announce his health programme, put together by his wife Hillary, in about two weeks.

"I want to work with the president where we (Republicans) can," Sen. Dole said. "We've got issues like NAFTA, health care, where we hope we can be helpful."

Both parties want to cut health costs and extend medical insurance to all Americans, but differ on how to do it.

Overshadowing almost every congressional action is the November 1994 election when all 435 House seats and 33 of 100 Senate slots will be at stake.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Supporters of Bhutto, Sharif clash

KARACHI (AFP) — Police were called in to restore order at an action rally held by former Premier Nawaz Sharif when his supporters clashed with workers of his arch-rival Benazir Bhutto, sources said Sunday. The fighting erupted when the rival Islamic Peoples Party (PPP) workers started chanting anti-Sharif slogans during the election meeting in Ms. Bhutto's home town of Lyari late Saturday, they said. The chanting PPP enthusiasts were led by supporters of Mr. Sharif.

Police sources said police intervened with a light baton charge and order was restored when Mr. Sharif took to the dais and asked the crowd not to beat the crowd. No one was hurt in the scuffle or the police action, they added.

China dam collapse toll hits 290

HONG KONG (AFP) — The death toll in the Aug. 17 Gouhou Dam disaster has risen to 290, up from the earlier reported 252 dead and 1,100 injured, the People's Public Security News said Sunday. The newspaper, which did not specify whether the new figure was a final count of the victims, said four police were among the dead. Some 400 others were swept away by the dam waters leaving 3,000 homeless, paper added.

U.S.-Sino-British talks end

KING (R) — China and Britain Sunday ended their 10th round of talks on Hong Kong's political reforms but there was little indication their outcome. British Ambassador Sir Robin McLaren told reporters outside his residence that the talks only dealt with the issue of Hong Kong's electoral system. "We have been discussing this issue. I do not think I want to say if there was progress or not. I do not want to comment on this issue," said Sir Robin, who is rarely forthcoming about the talks. "I do not think I would like to characterize them but I do not think it would be fair to say they are totally standing still," he said. The British embassy later said in a statement that the 11th round of talks will be held in Peking on Sept. 8 and 9 but gave no further details.

Tsunami typhoon probable toll now 46

NIKYO (R) — Typhoon Yancy stalled off Sunday after lashing Japan for days of violent winds and heavy rains that left at least 46 people dead or presumed dead, police said. At least 37 people were dead, nine unaccounted for and 135 injured in southern Japan, said. With the help of power shovels, hundreds of rescue workers continued to search for people buried in huge mudslides triggered Friday by torrential rains in Kinpo, Kagoshima on the southern island of Kyushu. Of the 20 people trapped in the rubble, 16 had so far been recovered, police said. The others were feared dead.

Rebel among 25 killed in Kashmir

NAGAR, India (AFP) — Indian security forces have shot dead Jinnah's most wanted Muslim guerrilla leader, police said here but his son denied the claim. Ahsan Dar, 36, chief of the outlawed Islamic Mujahideen, was slain in a gunbattle at Tangmarg, 35 miles north of this summer capital of Kashmir state. Inspector General of Police A.K. Suri said. Mr. Dar managed to stagger from the area, but died in neighbouring Phulwama district, Suri said. "He died," the officer said. "But we have not found his body." But Mr. Dar's militant colleagues denied the report, although they themselves admitted earlier in the day that he was dead and buried in the hills of this city firing in the air to denounce the killing. Police said no other militants also died in the Tangmarg gunbattle.

Guards arrested in Rio slum massacre

RIO DE JANEIRO (AFP) — A military police captain was arrested Saturday and accused of ordering the massacre of 21 people in a slum town in western Rio, police said. A lower-ranking officer was arrested, police said. Authorities announced the arrests of five ranking police officers Friday. The arrests were the first since gunmen armed with assault rifles stormed the Vigario Geral slum in western Rio before dawn August 30 and fatally shot 21 people, many of them in their beds. Police said Captain Aguiaraldo dos Reis had been assigned to protect one of the key witnesses in the slayings who until Thursday was in hospital.

Arms cache found near Managua

MANAGUA (AFP) — Authorities have discovered a large weapons cache belonging to Guatemalan guerrillas on the outskirts of Managua, the government said Saturday. A Guatemalan and a Guatemalan-born Nicaraguan were arrested near the underground cache on a hilltop outside the capital, said Assistant Interior Secretary Frank Cesar. He said the rebel arsenal, discovered Friday, was perhaps the largest on record in Nicaragua and that President Violetta Barrios de Chamorro had notified her Guatemalan counterpart, Ramiro De Leon Carpio, about the find. The cache included six rocket launchers, three grenade launchers, 1,000 rifles and machine guns, 100 electronic detonators, five cannons, 22 mortars, an anti-aircraft machine gun and almost a million rounds of various munitions, Mr. Cesar said. The weaponry, discovered 12.5 kilometers south of Managua, belonged to the left-wing Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unit, or URNG by its Spanish acronym, Mr. Cesar said.

India to probe U.S. ties with China

NEW DELHI (R) — India and China, whose relations improved decisively after the collapse of the Soviet Union, will discuss ways next week to get along with the United States, diplomats and politicians said Sunday. Indian opposition leaders said they had given a rare unanimous mandate to Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao to improve relations with China during his three-day visit to Peking starting Monday. But, they said, differences over India's future ties with the United States had sharpened recently after Washington pressured Russia to cancel a cryogenic rocket engine deal with New Delhi. The United States also announced sanctions last month against China and Pakistan, charging Peking with transferring forbidden missile technology to Islamabad. Indian analysts said that Washington's move was as arbitrary as its steps against India's rocket deal. "The United States has provided sufficient motivation to India and China to get together in opposing U.S. hegemonism," said K. Subramanyam, a defence expert close to the government.

Fighting breaks out in eastern Liberia

MONROVIA, Liberia (AP) — Fighting broke out in eastern Liberia and has spilled over for the first time into Ivory Coast. The United Nations and the Ivorian interior minister gave conflicting accounts of the skirmishes along the Ivorian border. The differences couldn't be immediately reconciled. A U.N. statement said the clashes, which broke a six-week-old peace pact brokered by the world body, were serious. But Ivory Coast's interior minister, Emile Constant Bombo, said the fighting on the Ivorian border was "an isolated incident" that took place Thursday at a refugee camp of Liberians. Half of Liberia's 3.2 million people are refugees or displaced in their own country.

Hurd could face treason charges

LONDON (AP) — Britain's Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd could face charges of treason for signing the Maastricht Treaty on closer European union, the Sunday Telegraph newspaper reported here. Rodney Atkinson, a businessman and occasional advisor to Conservative ministers, wants to press charges against the foreign secretary at a court hearing in Hexham, northeast England, Thursday, the paper said. Mr. Atkinson, a virulent critic of the European Community, believes Mr. Hurd and Francis Maude, the former junior treasury minister who co-signed the treaty on the government's behalf, could be charged on seven counts under the 1795 treason act, the 1700 act of settlement, the 1953 Coronation Oath Act and case law that no parliament may bind its successor. Mr. Atkinson, who is assisted in his action by a leading member of the right-wing Freedom Association, argues that Mr. Hurd and Mr. Maude have made the queen a citizen of another state (the E.C.), contrary to the Treason Act, and that the British people have, without their consent, been made citizens of another state, which can tax them.

Mobutu 'plans election' for December

PARIS (AP) — President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire plans to call an election for December and says the prospect of losing power after 28 years doesn't scare him, according to an interview published Saturday. Mr. Mobutu has been the target of a vigorous though divided opposition movement for several years as his country's economy collapsed. Western countries have cut off aid, and he has been forced to share power with his political rival, Prime Minister Etienne Tshisekedi.



FINAL SERVICES FOR MARCOS: A Priest

flanked by the sister of the late Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos, Fortuna Barbero, recites prayers over the open casket of the late president. Preparations began to take Mr. Marcos' body back to be buried in the Philippines.

Dozens of people filed by the body of Mr. Marcos.

Saturday during final services in Hawaii. A crowd of about 400 partially filled the auditorium of a local high school in Honolulu to pay their last respects to Mr. Marcos, whose body lay in a black lacquered casket with gold handles on the auditorium stage, surrounded by tropical flowers (AP Photo).

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Sports

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1993 9

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rainey badly hurt in crash

MISANO (AFP) — World motorcycling champion Wayne Rainey was seriously injured in a crash Sunday during an Italian Grand Prix won by his Italian teammate Luca Cadalora. Rainey crashed on the 11th lap and his condition was as serious by the circuit doctor, who had the Californian helicoptered to the nearest specialist hospital, at Cesena, for further examination. Dr. Costa said Rainey had broken two vertebrae in the spill. Rainey, who started on the front row of the grid, crashed out leaving Suzuki's Kevin Schwantz and Cadalora to fight for the spoils with Australia's Michael Doohan. Doohan's Honda charged through the field for second place, but Schwantz was more than happy with third spot as he regained the overall lead with 219 points, just five ahead of Rainey. Cadalora's win was his second of the season following his success at Donington Park, England. Schwantz is now five points clear with two races left.

Ten French soccer fans arrested

PARIS (R) — French police have arrested 10 soccer fans in connection with violence at a Paris stadium last month in which several policemen were injured, court sources said Sunday. The sources said those arrested were aged between 18 and 30 and were supporters of French first division club Paris St Germain. They could face trial for rebellion, conspiracy, attacking police officers, damaging property and theft, said the sources. The violence flared after a match between Paris St Germain and Caen at the Parc Des Princes Stadium in Paris August 28. France is anxious to stamp out soccer violence because it is due to host the 1998 World Cup.

Jordan is tops with Australian youngsters

BRISBANE (AP) — American basketball star Michael Jordan is the most popular sporting hero with Australian youngsters, according to a survey released Sunday. The survey of more than 600 students at high schools across Queensland State found Jordan was more popular than home-grown heroes like rugby league star Alan Langer, Australian cricket captain Allan Border and golfer Greg Norman. Students were given a list of leading sporting personalities and asked to rank them in order of popularity in the survey, conducted by the Sunday Mail newspaper. Chicago Bulls star Jordan polled 1,375 points, ahead of rugby league Stars Langer (1,051), Wally Lewis (798) and Willie Carne (726). Another American basketball player, Shaquille O'Neal, was fifth, with 597.

Karpov, Timman meet for official title

PARIS (AFP) — Russia's Anatoly Karpov and Dutchman Jan Timman meet Monday in the Dutch town of Zwolle for the first game in the "other" world chess championship, the official contest backed by the World Chess Federation (FIDE). The meeting is certain to be overshadowed by the match beginning Tuesday in London between the current world champion Garry Kasparov and Britain's Nigel Short who defeated both Karpov and Timman to earn the right to challenge for the world title. FIDE invited Karpov, 42, and Timman, 41, to compete for the title after it disowned Kasparov and Short for announcing that they would make their own arrangements for the staging of the championship final, in a dispute over how the venue was to be chosen. FIDE, which has organised the world chess championship since 1948, has struck Kasparov and Short from its official listings.

Alfonso gives Real Madrid flying start

PAMPLONA, Spain (R) — Real Madrid striker Alfonso Perez scored twice to help his team to a 4-1 win at Osasuna in a flying start to the Spanish soccer season Saturday. Real Madrid, first division runners-up last season, had won only two of their previous 10 matches against Osasuna in Pamplona. They played a fluid attacking game and did not appear to miss injured Chilean striker Ivan Zamorano. Alfonso scored his first goal in the 44th minute and added his second minutes later to give Real Madrid a 2-0 lead. Emilio Butrageno scored in the 70th minute and Michel Gonzalez hammered in a penalty in the 84th minute to put the visitors 4-0 in front. Osasuna's Yugoslav defender Pedrag Spasic, a former Real Madrid player, gave the home team its only goal two minutes later with a long shot that beat goalkeeper Francisco Buyo.

Warhurst transfers to Blackburn

BLACKBURN (AP) — After failing to reach an agreement three weeks ago, English Premier League soccer teams Sheffield Wednesday and Blackburn have worked out a transfer deal for Paul Warhurst. Warhurst, who scored six goals for Wednesday last season, will join Blackburn for 2.75 million pounds (\$1.12 million) pending the results of a medical checkup. He is expected to debut for his new team Saturday. Warhurst was primarily a defenseman during his first 5 1/2 years in the league, but was called into emergency service on the front line at the end of last season and helped Wednesday to the finals of the League Cup and the Football Association Cup.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIAH FRECH
Globe Television Media Services, Inc.

GIVE ONE, TAKE TEN

East-West vulnerable. South deals. NORTH
♦ A K Q 10 5 2
♦ 6 5 3
♦ A 9 4
♦ 4 3 2
WEST
♦ 9 7 6 3
♦ 5 4
♦ 3 2
♦ 9 8 7
♦ 6 4 2
♦ Q J 10 7
♦ K 8 5 3 2
♦ K J 9 7 6
♦ A 9 10
SOUTH
♦ J 9
♦ A K J 10 9 7 5
♦ 6
♦ 8 5 4
The bidding:
South West North East
4 ♦ Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Queen of ♦.
We continue with our series on safety plays - anti-percentage plays which, while they often fail to produce the maximum number of tricks, ensure the success of the contract.

At this vulnerability, we like South's full-blooded preempt of four hearts. Although the hand has only six sure tricks, the 100 bonus provides some cushion. If achieved its objective. Note that East-West are cold for five diamonds and five clubs is defeated only by a diamond ruff, yet neither can conveniently enter

cleric led a trump to the king and did not fully appreciate what was in store when West started a club. In fact, the contract could no longer be made! Declarer crossed to the queen of spades, finessed the nine of trumps, cashed the ace and then tried to discard a club on spades. Unfortunately, East ruffed the second and spades and declarer still had to surrender three club tricks - down one.

As long as there is a trump in dummy, the defenders cannot take more than two club tricks and a trump. With a combined holding of nine trumps, the odds favor dropping the queen in two rounds, but in this instance declarer should have been willing to concede a trump trick for the greater good. At trick two, declarer should have taken a trump finesse.

If it loses, the defenders can cash their two club-tricks, but South will take the rest of the tricks. If it wins and West follows, declarer draws trumps and claims. If it wins and West shows out, declarer crosses to the table with a spade, repeats the finesse, draws trumps and 13 tricks is declared only by a diamond ruff, yet neither can conveniently enter

the auction.

West started the queen of diamonds, taken by dummy's ace. De-

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Libya and Britain said to agree on Lockerbie trial

EDINBURGH (Agencies) — Britain and Libya have signed a deal to bring two men accused of blowing up a Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie in 1988 to trial in Scotland, the Sunday Post newspaper said Sunday.

The Scottish weekly said top Libyan legal expert Ibrahim Legwell visited Scotland secretly to meet the lawyers who would defend the accused, Abdel Basset Ali Mohammad Al Megrahi and Al Amin Khalifa Fhimah.

"Every last detail of the plan to bring the men here has now been signed by the two governments," the Sunday Post said.

It said Mr. Legwell's visit three weeks ago was the culmination of 12 months of the secret negotiations.

The British Foreign Office would not confirm that a deal had been signed but a spokesman said: "We have given the Libyans a series of detailed assurances about a fair trial in Scotland and the treatment of the two men after they have been surrendered."

Britain and the United States hold the two men solely responsible for planting a bomb in December 1988 that killed all 259 people aboard Pan American World Airways flight 103 from London to New York and 11 people in the small Scottish town.

The United Nations has imposed sanctions on Libya over its refusal to hand the men over. Britain, France and the United States have set Oct. 1 as the deadline for tough new measures if they are not surrendered.

The newspaper said Libya set strict terms for allowing the men to stand trial in Scotland. These included where they would be held, the food they would be

given and facilities for religious worship while in custody.

Britain agreed the two accused would arrive as free men and would not be arrested until they entered the terminal building at a Scottish airport, the Sunday Post said.

Recent Scottish media reports increased speculation that the two men will arrive in Scotland before the Oct. 1 deadline.

The Scotsman daily newspaper said two weeks ago that Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi had given secret guarantees the men would not be handed over to America whatever the outcome of trial in Scotland.

The Scotsman said top Scottish advocate Lord Macaulay of Barrigar met representatives of the two men secretly in Brussels last month. Lord Macaulay, 59, a leading defence lawyer and a spokesman on Scottish legal affairs for the opposition Labour Party, admits he went to Brussels but refuses to reveal the purpose of the visit.

The Foreign Office would only say it was aware of the nature of Lord Macaulay's visit.

Libya reports sanctions effect

An engine caught fire on a Libyan airliner leaving Benghazi and forced an emergency landing 12 minutes after takeoff, Libya's news agency reported Saturday.

JANA, the official agency monitored in Cairo, reported no injuries among more than 150 passengers and undetermined number of crew.

The Libyan Arab Airlines Boeing 727 was Flight 1103, the same Benghazi-to-Tripoli service

on which a 727 crashed last December with a loss of 157 lives.

JANA said the emergency landing occurred Wednesday.

The plane took off at 2:03 p.m. but turned back "when the aircraft commander was informed of a failure in engine number two" and landed at Benghazi at 2:15. It said the engine was destroyed by fire.

The agency blamed the incident on the 16-month-old U.N. embargo denying Libya among other things aircraft spare parts.

Quoting "a source" at Libyan Arab Airlines, JANA said "the coercive measures" against Libya "prevented the supply of the necessary spare parts needed for the maintenance of aircraft and to guarantee aviation safety."

It said: "The measures were the cause for what the Libyan aircraft suffered and almost led to a new catastrophe."

Algerian paper assails Qadhafi

A newspaper Sunday accused Col. Qadhafi of supporting anti-government violence in Algeria and urged the authorities to act against Tripoli.

In a rare attack on a leader of a neighbouring country, Al Watan said: "Besides his interference in Algeria's internal affairs, the Libyan leader has unmasked himself and confirmed he is one of the principal supporters of terrorism."

The newspaper, generally well informed on security matters, said Col. Qadhafi last week announced Libya had the "capacity to cooperate" with Algeria's banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), its jailed President Abbasi Madani and deputy Ali Belhadj.



Somalis stand in front of the body of one of Nigerian soldiers killed in one of two ambuses against peacekeeping forces in Mogadishu (AFP photo)

Seven Nigerian soldiers killed in Mogadishu attack

MOGADISHU (Agencies) — Seven Nigerian U.N. troops were killed by Somali gunmen in north Mogadishu early Sunday and another two, apparently badly wounded, were taken prisoner, residents said.

Somali sources said at least 15 Somalis, including some women and children, were killed in fighting between the Nigerian patrol and gunmen who chanted slogans supporting fugitive warlord Mohammad Farah Aideed.

There was no immediate comment from U.N. sources on the incident, which appeared to be the most serious attack on U.N. peacekeepers since 23 Pakistanis were killed in June by gunmen loyal to General Aideed.

Reporters said they saw the bodies of seven Nigerians — stripped of their uniforms — lying in three locations several metres apart.

Local residents told reporters the Nigerians were challenged by pro-Aideed gunmen as U.N. soldiers drove before dawn in two vehicles to Checkpoint Pasta, manned by Italian troops, following reports of shooting in the area.

After trying to talk with the angry Somalis, the Nigerians fired in the air — drawing intense gunfire from two directions, the residents said.

The elders told the Nigerian commander to go away because "we don't want to fight you." But the Nigerians opened fire and the angry crowd reacted, one elder said.

The payments continued "even when Aideed was declared a wanted person by U.N. forces in June," the official said.

Mr. Schumann said he had decided on his own initiative to end the payments.

The newspaper quoted "a U.N. military official" whom it did not name, as saying that to have ended the payments "would have been like opening a second front."

The heavily fortified U.N. compound in the city has come under almost nightly attack since the June ambush that killed the 23 Pakistanis.

Early on Saturday, an unknown number of gunmen tried to sever the walls of a U.S. military compound close to U.N. headquarters, but were driven off with a volley of shots.

Meanwhile the Sunday Times in London reported that the United Nations had been paying Gen. Aideed more than \$100,000 a month even after the world body offered a \$25,000 reward for his arrest.

The money was paid by U.N. agencies in Mogadishu, supposedly for the hire of gunmen loyal to Aideed who would provide security for aid convoys," the newspaper quoted development programme coordinator Peter Schumann as saying.

In fact, since the Americans landed in Somalia last December, the gunmen have escorted no convoys and are kept on the payroll."

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The situation in the area of the clash remained tense. Crowds gathered and gestured angrily at U.N. troops and journalists.

On Saturday, gunmen built makeshift barricades along the main street in south Mogadishu as an act of defiance. One barrier was only 100 metres from a Pakistani checkpoint.

told Reuters.

Witnesses said the Nigerians tried to withdraw but their path was blocked by more Somalis and they succeeded in driving only about a kilometre before the entire party was wiped out.

Witnesses said Italian troops at Checkpoint Pasta had tried to save the Nigerians by urging local elders to cool down the gunmen, but the crowd ignored them and lit barricades of tyres to block U.N. reinforcements.

Several hours later, Italian commander General Bruno Loi reached the scene in a bid to recover the soldiers' bodies.

U.N. officials said it was just chance that other convoys travelling through Muslim-Croat battle zones made it to other destinations Saturday.

"The system loosened up for (only) one day," said Lieutenant-Colonel Bill Aikman, a U.N. spokesman.

He said the 20 convoys delivered more than 1,000 tonnes of food and other relief to central and eastern Bosnia.

Fighting between Muslims and Croats has centred recently around the southwestern city of Mostar, divided between the two rival factions. Col. Aikman said occasional artillery, mortar and sniper fire shook the city Sunday. Bosnian radio reported full-scale fighting for Mostar on Sunday, but there was no U.N. confirmation.

Despite the tensions, Col. Aikman was hopeful that about 50 injured in Muslim-held eastern Mostar could be flown out later Sunday as part of a mutual evacuation deal.

Come Croats have already been taken out through Muslim lines surrounding the central town of Nova Bila as part of the agreement. Bosnian Croats spoke of fierce Muslim attacks on their positions near Nova Bila on Sunday, but there was no independent corroboration.

The U.S. administration on Thursday threatened Croats and Serbs with NATO air strikes if they resumed offensives against key cities, including Mostar.

Croats at first fought alongside government forces to put down a rebellion by Serbs over Bosnia's independence from Serb-dominated Yugoslavia.

The alliance collapsed in fighting over land in central Bosnia and around Mostar. Croats want Mostar to be the capital of a future Bosnian Croat state if a plan to partition the country into three ethnic states goes through.

Talks on such a division collapsed last week in Geneva over territorial issues, provoking fears of more intense fighting in Bosnia. But Bosnia's Muslim president, Alija Izetbegovic, said Saturday he expected the Geneva talks to resume in two weeks. He flew Sunday to New York, where he will meet the U.N. Security Council on Tuesday.

gas exports, the only significant exports, have ravaged the economy.

More than 20 per cent of the workforce is unemployed, much industry, lacking spare parts and raw materials, operates at half capacity, and there is a chronic housing shortage.

"Rescheduling becomes urgent, of little cost if you compare it to the alternative of the total economic collapse threatening our country if the self-imposed policy of strangulation continues," Mr. Benachoun wrote recently.

Officials say the failure of the economy fuels discontent, particularly among the 17 million aged under 30 of the country's 26 million people, providing a fertile breeding ground for Islamic extremism.

Debt-repayments of around \$9 billion a year or over 70 per cent of foreign income from oil and

gas exports, the only significant exports, have ravaged the economy.

In nearly 20 months, more than 1,000 people have been killed in violence blamed on fundamentalists, despite thousands of arrests, a state of emergency, night curfews, more than 250 death sentences and 13 executions this year.

COLUMN 10 Sarajevo faces fuel crisis amid fighting

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — The besieged Bosnian capital Sarajevo may run out of fuel within days as heavy clashes between Croat and Muslim troops block supply routes into the city, U.N. officials said Sunday.

The battles raging between former allies, the Bosnian Croat and Muslim-led government troops, in Gornji Vakuf have cut off humanitarian aid convoys travelling from the Croatian port of Split into Sarajevo.

"By the end of the coming week, the fuel situation in Sarajevo will be quite severe," United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) spokesman Ray Wilkinson told a news briefing in Sarajevo.

"UNHCR already has no fuel reserves on hand."

Sarajevo suffers continual power cuts because of fuel shortages and residents have little left to burn for warmth in the approaching winter because all the city's trees were felled last year.

A convoy carrying fuel for Sarajevo remained stalled in western Bosnia-Herzegovina because of Croat-Muslim fighting. U.N. officials said it was just chance that other convoys travelling through Muslim-Croat battle zones made it to other destinations Saturday.

Oscar-winning actor in fatal car crash

WENATCHEE, Washington (AFP) — Oscar winning actor F. Murray Abraham was involved in a car crash near here in which a man was killed, Washington state police said. Abraham's car collided with one driven by Guy Ketzenberg, 28, who died at the scene, said police. Police said they could not say who was at fault but that Ketzenberg was travelling on a state highway which has a stop sign where it intersects with a federal highway.

The crash occurred at that intersection. Abraham, who lives in New York City, suffered a fractured wrist and cuts. He won an Oscar for his portrayal of Mozart's rival in the 1984 movie *Amadeus*.

Italian wins Busoni Piano Competition

DOLZANO, Italy (AP) — Italian Roberto Cominatti has won the annual Ferruccio Busoni International Piano Competition, organisers said. Cominatti, who won after playing Rachmaninoff's Concerto No. 3, Opus 30, competed with more than 100 pianists.

The 29-year-old Cominatti, who received 15 million lire (\$9,300) in prize money, is only the third Italian ever to win the country's most prestigious piano competition. Ukrainian Vitaly Samoschuk, 20, took second place and received nine million lire (\$5,600). In third place was Olivier Cazal, 31, of France, who won 7 million lire (\$4,300). Italy had two other pianists finishing in the top six of the 27 semi-finalists.

Missing man found in home freezer

MANITOWOC, Wis. (AP) — A man's body was found in a freezer at his home a week after he vanished. Donald Nooker, 61, was last seen on Aug. 27 heading for work, said Police Capt. Randy Ammerman. Nooker's wife, Mildred, said she discovered the body Friday when she went to get some frozen food, Capt. Ammerman said. Investigators were waiting for results of an autopsy before making guesses on whether Mr. Nooker fell into the freezer or his body was placed there, Capt. Ammerman said.

Joseph Kennedy's wife to fight annulment

BOSTON (AP) — Sheila Rauch Kennedy has brought new attention to a sensitive subject for the Roman Catholic Church by saying she'll fight an annulment petition by her divorced husband, Congressman Joseph Kennedy II. The church never recognises legal divorces, but it grants annulments — more often than in the past — for a variety of reasons. Without an annulment, Catholics cannot remarry or remain in good standing in the church, which teaches that marriage means forever.

Mrs. Sheila Kennedy said her 12-year marriage to the congressman does not fit the church requirement for annulment: That a "sacramental bond" never existed.

"If our marriage were deemed never to have existed in the eyes of the church, then our children, like others of annulled marriages, would have been neither conceived in nor born to a sanctified union," she wrote in a letter to Time magazine.

Jordanians remain sceptical of Palestinian autonomy agreement

By Marwan M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

JORDANIANS, partially reassured by His Majesty King Hussein's backing Saturday for the Palestinian-Israeli Jericho-Gaza first accord, are still fearful of the possible sideeffects of the agreement.

The general preoccupation that Jericho and Gaza, two under-developed areas, could witness factional violence among Palestinians, has strengthened these fears, analysts and commentators said this week.

After 10 days of debate in salons, offices, cafes and homes, Jordanians are still not decided on whether the Gaza-Jericho option is a favourable one for Jordan.

The fears and worries vary from one group to the other but most meet on three points:

— A fear that Israel is tricking the Palestinians and leading them into a trap that would result in economic and political exploitation rather than liberation;

— A conviction that Israel has no desire to rule either Gaza or Jericho and wants to

use these two areas to transfer the Palestinians from the rest of the occupied territories including Jerusalem and that this transfer would also result in either a forced or economic migration to the East Bank of the Jordan River;

— A fear that the Jericho-Gaza plan will be the final outcome rather than one in a stage in Israeli-Palestinian peace turning Jericho and Gaza into buffer areas styled after South Africa's apartheid, rather than a "liberated homeland."

The concern for Jordan as much as for Palestine is part of the debate on whether the Jericho-Gaza option is acceptable to Jordanians.

Many Jordanian activists doubt that the PLO leaders or their successors would be able to form a functioning democratic government, be it municipal or national. Democracy is believed to be essential to the success of even the most limited autonomy rule in the territories. Jordanian analysts believe that the failure of a future self-governing body to create an economically viable and democratically oriented

entity would result in mass migration to Jordan.

Jordanians, while insisting they are not "anti-Palestinian," feel Jordan has already absorbed all the migrants — Palestinians or others — that it can economically and demographically handle. Jordan's settled Palestinians also fear that a wave of Palestinian migrants or mass transfer could upset the delicate balance between East and West Banks and jeopardise their own political and economic standing in the long run.

"Continued migration would mean a de facto Palestinian homeland in Jordan, and this is what we are trying to avoid. We want a Palestinian homeland in Palestine," said Hakan Khair, spokesperson for the centre-of-right Al Watan party.

Jordanians are thus split when it comes to the Jericho-Gaza first option. Jordanians and Palestinians in Jordan want to believe that the proposal is the first in a series of steps that will lead to the full application of U.N. resolutions 242 and 338, the withdrawal of

Israeli forces from all the territories occupied in the 1967 war but the realities of Israeli policies overshadows this optimism. Jordanians' lack of trust in Israel first and in Yasser Arafat's ability to negotiate a just settlement will be major stumbling blocks," said a member of the Jordanian Communist Party.

"Israel does not act out of humanitarian concern or because it believes in international legitimacy of the Palestinian cause but because of its own defined interests and thus any proposal it approves has to be studied very well for major loopholes," said a spokesman for one of the 11 left-wing and pan-Arab political parties in Jordan. "It is a pariah state and it is allowing for this so-called pilot project in order to prove that the Palestinians cannot rule themselves. The Israelis will make sure that everything that can possibly go wrong will go wrong."</